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THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

No 64,253

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12 1992

40p

IRA alert before No 10 summit

Ulster leaders shrug off bomb and start talks

By SHEILA GUNN AND STEWART TENDLER

JOHN Major yesterday persuaded the leaders of Northern Ireland's four constitutional parties to search again for common ground so that discussions on the future of the province could resume.

As an IRA bomb alert brought Whitehall to a standstill for the third time in a year, the prime minister held the first talks in Downing Street with Ulster leaders for 16 years. He said that a "significant but modest breakthrough" had been made at the meeting.

Only hours before the Ulster talks were due to begin, a time bomb loaded with Semtex was discovered by police in a telephone box near the entrance to Downing Street. The device was found at the height of the morning rush hour outside the Foreign Office, only seven minutes before Thames TV had been

warned that it was due to explode. A caller who spoke with an Irish accent and used a recognised code word telephoned the television station at 8.47am and said a bomb had been left in the Whitehall area and it would explode in 30 minutes.

Police sealed off the area while a thorough search was conducted. Cars and buses were abandoned and bomb shutters were drawn at the Ministry of Defence.

Police found the device at 9.10am hidden inside a black wooden box and left in a telephone kiosk. They believe it could have been left by the bomber as he made his warning call. Two other suspect packages found in the area later turned out to be harmless.

Although Mr Major's meeting did not set an agenda for further talks, the Ulster leaders expressed cautious hope about his willingness to hold further talks. The prime minister's personal intervention appeared to galvanise the four men into agreeing to meet next week.

The IRA bomb scare acted as an extra spur to make sure that the leaders — James Moynihan of the Ulster Unionist party, Dr Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionist party, John Hume of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour party, and Dr John Alderdice of the Alliance party — attended the Downing Street talks. After the 90-minute meeting to revive the stalled Brooke initiative on devolution, Mr Major said: "Terrorists who claim to be acting on behalf of one community or other are in fact acting against the interest of all the people in Northern Ireland — that was the unanimous view of everyone."

"Everyone at the meeting gave their support to the security forces in bringing those responsible for terrorist atrocities to justice."

Mr Major said that the four leaders had agreed to discuss obstacles blocking further political dialogue in

the hope that the talks might be able to resume soon. Mr Moynihan said that he regarded the meeting as a "tremendous help" which would boost the confidence of the people of Northern Ireland.

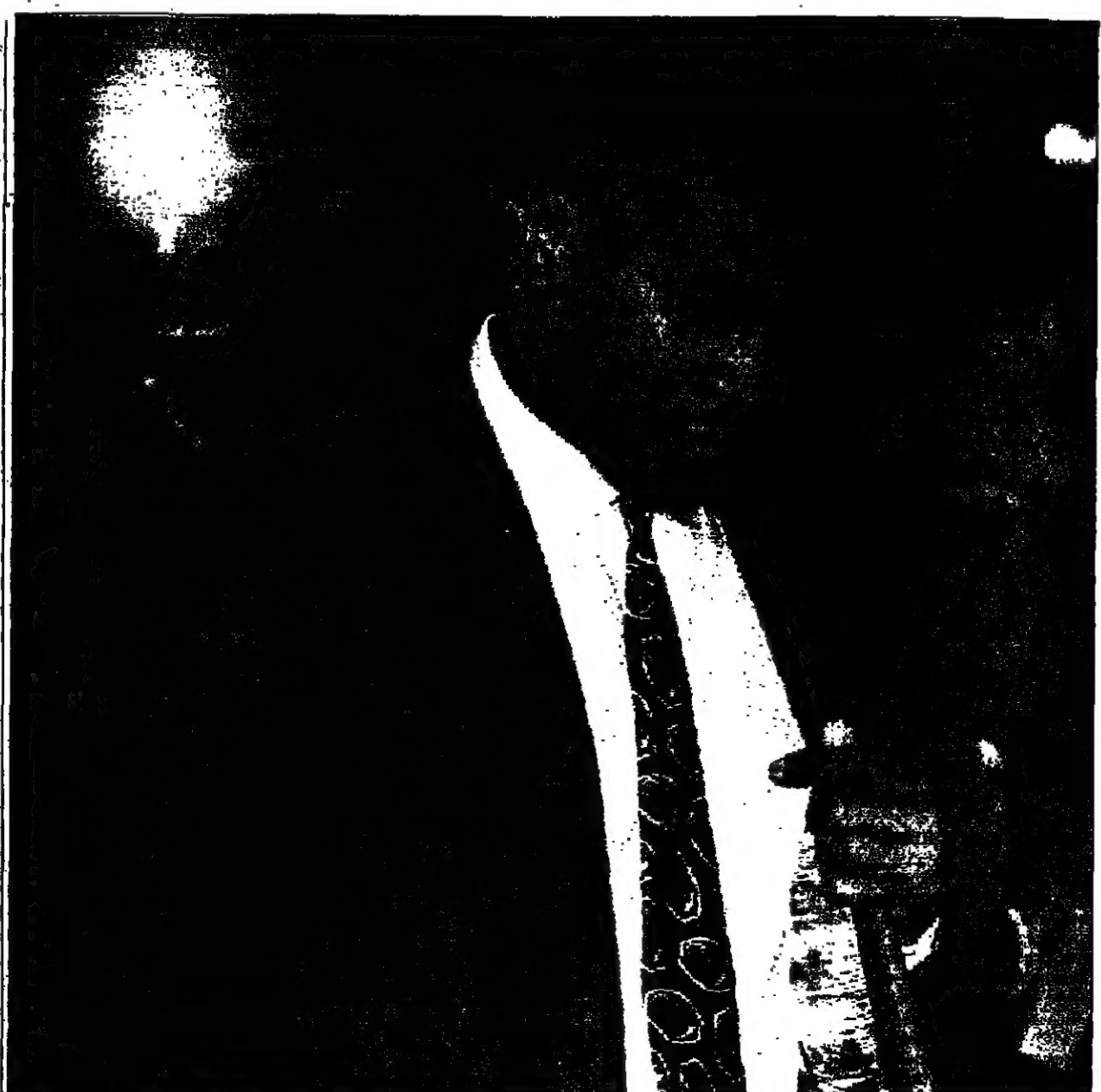
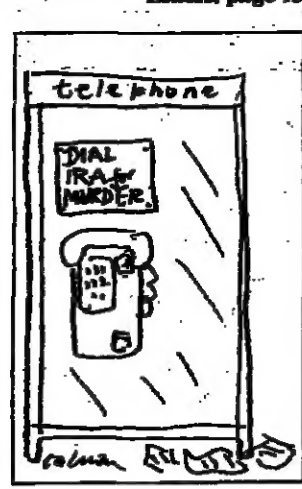
Dr Paisley said it was a "forthright and honest meeting that had a heavy dose of realism. There had been no attempt to put anything under the carpet and Mr Major had tried to grasp the nettle."

Dr Alderdice said: "I think it is tremendously important that the prime minister is bringing the whole weight of the government behind moving forward in Northern Ireland — that is a very welcome development." Neither he nor Mr Hume would be drawn on whether a new round of talks would be held before the general election.

Earlier Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, condemned the IRA attack. "The warning given this morning was deliberately vague and lacking in detail so as to make the job of finding the device extremely difficult in the time allowed."

The likelihood of causing death or injury to the public was high and to give so little warning was utterly cynical."

Cabinet shake-out, page 2
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Mike Tyson, looking stunned by the jury's guilty verdict, leaving the Marion County court on bail

Women hail Tyson's downfall

From CHARLES BRENNER IN INDIANAPOLIS

MIKE Tyson, newly convicted felon, reportedly left the court for a pre-sentence hearing in Indianapolis yesterday as women's groups across America proclaimed his downfall a triumph for rape victims.

Silent and grim, he strode into court to the cheers of supporters urging him to "hang in there Mike". After waiting with other convicts, he was interviewed as a preliminary to his sentencing by Judge Patricia Gifford on March 6. He is expected to receive between six and 18 years in prison for his three convictions of rape and deviant conduct against Desiree Washington, the teenage beauty queen, who accepted an invitation to his hotel room last July. If all appeals fail, he will probably start his sentence in about a year.

Campaigners for women's rights let out a cheer for the first high-profile victory in their struggle to have "date rapists" brought to book. The conviction contrasted with the acquittal of William Kennedy Smith on rape charges last December and with the humiliation of Anita Hill, who was widely believed when she accused Judge Clarence Thomas of harassing her with lewd talk.

The verdict ended plans for the biggest sporting pay-day in history, a \$100 million (£55 million) bout between Tyson and Evander Holyfield, the current world heavyweight champion. Tyson could have fought at any time until the result of his appeals are known, but Holyfield said he would refuse.

Baddest man, page 10
America's best, page 12
Boxing's loss, page 31
British chance, page 32

Judge asks for reform as Guinness trial is halted

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SENIOR judge yesterday called for an overhaul of the system dealing with long criminal trials after halting the four-month-old Guinness II hearing because a defendant was too ill to continue.

Discharging the jury at Southwark crown court, Mr Justice Henry said that medical evidence showed that Roger Seelig, aged 46, a former merchant banker, was mentally ill from the stress of conducting his own defence and might do "something irrevocable" if he carried on.

"This case highlights the problems of long criminal trials and the appropriateness of our criminal justice system and its rules, which were originally drawn up to deal with short trials and simple facts," the judge said.

"We must find a cheaper and quicker way to deal with these serious fraud trials. It seems to me that we need a radical solution rather than just tinkering with the existing procedures."

The judge said that he had begun to worry about Mr Seelig's health soon after the trial began last September. The

final straw had come two weeks ago when Mr Seelig suffered the last and worst of several breakdowns in court.

The jury, which had been absent at the time, was given a transcript of Mr Seelig's words. The judge said: "That transcript showed a man at the end of his health, bewildered at his loss of control and his inability to think straight, wondering whether his medication rather than his mental state is to blame, recognising that he seems to have gone funny yet insisting that he was all right and could go on."

An "even more poignant" tape recording of the outburst was offered to the jurors to listen to in their room. The judge said that it included Mr Seelig crying and talking in a highly emotional manner.

The case is estimated to have cost up to £2 million in lawyers' fees alone.

Mr Justice Henry told the jury that he had warned Mr Seelig of the perils of conducting his own case, but he had insisted on his right to do so.

Mr Seelig had professional legal advisors when arrested

on charges arising out of the £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers by Guinness in 1986, but discharged them as costs rose. He claimed to have spent more than £500,000.

Mr Seelig's co-defendant, Lord Spens, aged 50, the former managing director of the merchant bank Henry Ansbacher, claims to have spent a similar sum before obtaining legal aid. Yesterday, he estimated that his costs paid from public funds since then at about £600,000. The Serious Fraud Office, the prosecution, puts its costs at about £650,000.

After yesterday's hearing, Mr Seelig said: "It was simply a case of taking on too

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Leading article, page 13

Heads seek exam switch

State and independent school heads have united with universities to press for a more flexible curriculum for pupils over 16.

They are concerned about the high failure rate for A levels and say pupils should be able to build up qualifications gradually, using vocational courses as credit towards various qualifications. Page 2

All change

Eight Irish cabinet ministers have been sacked by the new prime minister, Albert Reynolds, in a ruthless reshuffle that draws a line under the Haughey era. Gerard Collins is replaced as foreign minister by the barrister David Andrews. Mary O'Rourke, who stood against Mr Reynolds for the leadership, also goes. Page 2

Tobacco vote

European MPs have voted to ban all tobacco advertising from the end of the year. The draft directive would become law if approved by health ministers in May, but Britain, Germany and The Netherlands are still fighting the move. Page 2

Bush declares

George Bush will today formally announce that he is seeking a second term as President of the United States. But his popularity has slumped since the heady days after the Gulf war. Page 10

BA soars

British Airways surprised the City with pre-tax profits in the three months to the end of December, up five-fold to £100 million. The Gulf war had affected results this time last year, but analysts were still expecting profits of only £35 million. Page 17

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Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in 12 pages of appointments in the Life & Times section



Recession longest since war, says Bank

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England says that economic recovery is proving elusive and that the recession has become the longest since the war. The Bank's latest quarterly assessment of the economy marks a retreat from the optimistic reading of the economy given in its Quarterly Bulletin published in November.

Bank economists say they can see no sign of a double dip recession but add that the modest recovery they had predicted for the second half of 1991 did not occur. The assessment confirms the view given by Treasury officials last week. The Bank is concerned by the lack of consumer confidence at home and the worsening international environment. Until the new year both Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and Robin

Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, were still talking of recovery being under way.

Economic data has now convinced the government that recovery will be weaker and slower to arrive than Mr Lamont forecast in his autumn statement in November. The economy is expected to grow by 1 per cent this year, less than half that forecast in the statement. It follows a decline of 2.5 per cent in 1991, the steepest calendar year drop since the great depression. The Bank said the recession was "bumping along the bottom" and was reluctant to predict precisely when it would end, though it is assuming "modest, slow" recovery will come this year.

Bank gloom, page 17

Britain comes clean over bathroom antics

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITONS spend a year of their lives in the bath or shower on average, according to a survey of 2,500 people. More than half read in the bath, a third drink coffee, almost a third sing, a quarter consume alcohol, a seventh make phone calls, and a tenth use the time to clip their toenails, the survey by the bathroom suppliers Graham says.

Seven per cent eat in the bath, and four per cent claim to have sexual intercourse there. Others say that they watch television from their baths, write letters, tackle crosswords, or practise yoga and meditation. A few go to sleep. A tenth of the popula-

tion use their bath to wash the dog, while others share their baths with pet rabbits, cats (particularly Persians), or their children's toys. A tenth keep toys of their own to play with at bathtime, while 4 per cent play with their children's toys.

The Graham Bath Report, published yesterday, indicates that three out of five people prefer baths to showers. More than half the respondents, though, prefer showers in summer and baths in winter.

Twenty eight per cent do not own a shower, while only two per cent lack a bath. In Greater London more than half those questioned did not have a shower and almost an eighth were without a bath.

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Drink alcohol	26	31	0	28
Drink coffee	54	38	0	29
Eat	9	9	0	6
Read	53	60	5	55
Wash hair	68	68	18	59
Listen to music	58	53	16	55
Dream	68	16	72	72
Beauty treatment	70	72	0	62
Talk on phone	14	16	5	12
Clip toenails	15	15	11	15
Wash dog	10	9	0	14
Have sex	4	4	0	2
Think	1	1	0	1

Sources: Graham Bath Report
Base: 2,500 adults

More than two thirds of Londoners claimed to take a bath every day. The cleanest citizens were those in the Channel Islands, where 83 per cent take a shower every day, and half also take a bath several times a week. The report shows that 37 per cent of Britons shower several

times a week, while 43 per cent take several baths a week. The average time spent in the shower is five minutes, in the bath 15 to 30 minutes.

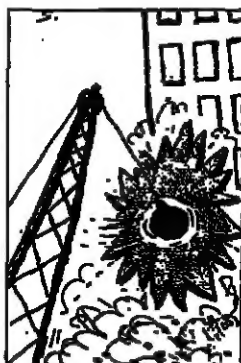
From that, the researchers calculate that the average citizen spends more than four and a half days a year in the bath or shower. Over a 70-year lifespan, they estimate, that would add up about 341 days in the tub or under the shower.

More than a third of respondents described their bathrooms as adequate, though in London two fifths complained that theirs were too small. Only 29 per cent were satisfied with the colour of their bathroom.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

DEMOLITION SQUAD



fixes his sights on London's eyesores
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Page 1

THE BIGGER THE BETTER



Dawn French sizes up the over 14s' choice
Life & Times
Page 5

SNOWED UNDER



The Bell brothers' combined effort at Val d'Isère plus all the other Winter Olympic results
Life & Times
Page 30

The world's most advanced underground.

In our new deep mine at Asfordby, Leicestershire, we're testing advanced technology which will eventually help to triple present levels of productivity. By supporting the roof with 3 metre long bolts which are quicker to install than the steel arches currently in use, we can cut coal much faster than ever before.

You may be surprised to learn that we also use computer technology normally employed in airliners and to power your microwave oven to help run our pits more efficiently.

The result is better quality coal and more reliable deliveries to our customers. But then we've always seen technology as a means to an end, not an end in itself.



THE ENERGY TO SUCCEED

Haughey era swept away with the ousting of eight ministers



O'Rourke: paid price of leadership challenge

THE Haughey era in Irish politics came to an abrupt end yesterday when eight of his ministers were dismissed by his successor Albert Reynolds. After being formally voted into office as the ninth prime minister in the republic's history, Mr Reynolds stunned party colleagues by announcing a cabinet in which eight Haughey appointees were omitted.

The new team was being seen as emphasising ability and merit. Ministers who owed their position largely to their loyalty to Mr Haughey were dropped, as were those who opposed Mr Reynolds in his failed leadership attempt in the autumn.

The most important ap-

pointment for Anglo-Irish relations is David Andrews, aged 56, a Dublin barrister, who replaces Gerard Collins as foreign minister. Mr Collins was expected to lose the foreign ministry portfolio, but retain a cabinet seat. Instead, he appears to have paid dearly for his appeals to Mr Reynolds to back down during the autumn heave against Mr Haughey.

Mr Andrews last held a junior ministerial post in 1979. He is considered one of the brightest members of the party, whose hostility to Mr Haughey ensured that he remained on the back benches during the 1980s.

Although the drift of Irish government policy on North-

Albert Reynolds wasted no time in making his mark as the new Irish prime minister yesterday with a cabinet shake-out that shocked his Fianna Fáil colleagues: Edward Gorman reports

ern Ireland is not expected to change, Mr Andrews may be prepared to take risks in the search for a breakthrough to a greater extent than his predecessor. As one observer put it: "Peace and reconciliation will be his absolute priorities, and he will be prepared to be quite radical."

Mr Andrews comes from a solid republican background, but represents Dun Laoghaire, the most liberal constituency in the country.

He might be described as a pragmatic nationalist who is close to the Northern Ireland-based SDLP, and he firmly believes that a devolution settlement in Belfast is the best way forward.

He is active in the British-Irish inter-parliamentary body, and is on good terms with many MPs at Westminster. He has also vigorously pursued cases of miscarriage of justice in the British courts relating to Ireland, including

those of the Birmingham Six, the Guildford Four, and the Maguire family.

Apart from Mr Collins, those who have lost their jobs are Mary O'Rourke (health), Rory O'Hanlon (environment), Michael O'Kennedy (labour), Raymond Burke (justice), Vincent Brady (defence), Brendan Daly (social welfare), and Noel Davenport (education).

Of those, the most surprising is Mary O'Rourke, sister of the former deputy prime minister, Brian Lenihan, who campaigned for the leadership, but won the support of only six of the party's 77 deputies as against 61 for Mr Reynolds. She was considered a more than able

education minister and looked promising at health, but appears to have paid the price for her leadership challenge.

The dismissal of so many ministers suggests that Mr Reynolds believes that with a new team he can go to the country some time within the next two years and secure the overall majority for Fianna Fáil that eluded Mr Haughey. That would free the party from its coalition with the small Progressive Democrats, who have retained two seats in the cabinet.

The full cabinet is: prime minister, Albert Reynolds; deputy prime minister and minister for defence, John

Wilson; minister for foreign affairs, David Andrews; minister for finance, Bertie Ahern; minister for environment, Michael Smith; minister for agriculture, Joseph Walsh; minister for labour, Brian Cowen; minister for social welfare, Charles McCreery; minister for health, Dr John O'Connell; minister for education, Seamus Brennan; minister for energy, Robert Molloy (PD); minister for industry and commerce, Desmond O'Malley (PD); minister for tourism, Mairéad Geoghegan-Quinn; minister for justice, Pádraig Flynn; minister for the marine, Michael Woods; attorney-general, Harry Wheahan.

Colleges and schools call for A-level shake-up

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STATE and independent school heads yesterday joined with universities to press for changes in the post-16 curriculum close to those proposed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Two state and two independent school associations issued a joint statement with university representatives criticising the government's plans for an Advanced Diploma to link academic and vocational qualifications. They accused the government of remaining isolated in the face of a consensus for more fundamental change.

The heads called for a more flexible curriculum, in which students could use vocational courses as credit towards A-levels or other qualifications. A new accreditation body would be needed to put a value on the wide variety of courses the system would encompass.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, who chaired the

group, said: "We are all heartily sick of banging our heads against the A-level wall that has been built up." The five organisations' statement was an attempt to secure more rounded provision for 16-19 year olds.

The statement expressed concern at the high failure rate for A-levels, which averages almost a quarter of the candidates in each subject, and the pressure on many pupils to take examinations before they were ready. A credit system, which has been rejected for A-levels but implemented for some vocational qualifications, would allow students to build up qualifications, choosing the most suitable courses for their intended career.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has insisted that A-levels should remain broadly unchanged, with vocational qualifications representing a separate educational route with enhanced status.

The group, which included the Headmasters' Conference, the Girls' Schools' Association and the principals of sixth form colleges, said: "We believe that the distinction between the academic and the vocational is now unhelpful."

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have put forward plans for a linked system of vocational and academic qualifications. The heads, who said that they were not seeking "drastic structural changes to existing qualifications", have discussed their proposals with Jack Straw, the Labour education spokesman.

Mr Clarke yesterday announced a £20 million initiative to channel money for new buildings to the most popular schools. Regulations will be changed so that schools which are full and which perform well in the government's proposed league tables no longer have to turn away pupils if there are empty places in neighbouring schools.

The move follows pressure from church schools, which have been denied the money to expand because of the number of surplus places in local authority schools. Parents have been forced to send their children to half-empty secular schools when they wanted them to be educated in a denominational school.

Mr Clarke said: "Good schools which are popular with parents should be able to expand if they wish." The money will be set aside from next year's overall capital budget for schools after consultation with local authorities, the churches and open-out schools.



Oborski: argued with former lover at party

Mayoress sent poison pen letter

BY RICHARD DUCK

A MAYORESS sent a crude poison pen letter to the woman she discovered was having an affair with her former lover, a court was told yesterday.

Fran Oborski, the Liberal Democrat MP for Kidderminster, Worcestershire, was convicted of sending an "indecent or grossly offensive" letter to Penny Beard.

She sent the note after an argument at a Christmas party with Peter Price, aged 52, her former lover and political agent. Mr Price had taken Mrs Beard, aged 48, to the party where Oborski began insulting her in the crowded bar, Droitwich magistrates were told.

Oborski, aged 46, who had an affair with Mr Price while he was staying at the home she shared with her husband Michael in Kidderminster, then sent an anonymous letter to Mrs Beard labelling her a slut. It also said: "You are living with Mr Price and still claiming benefits. There are homeless families with kids who need your flat."

Mr Parson said the relationship between Oborski and Mr Price, a former county councillor, had cooled. "Perhaps the falling out was a motive for this letter. It is a perfectly plain example of a poisoned pen letter."

Oborski, who had denied the charge, was fined £250 when, under threat of invasion from France, light troops were added to some existing dragoon regiments. They wore jockey caps and boots and were trained for light cavalry duties — reconnaissance and skirmishing — previously the preserve of irregular horse regiments such as the Hungarian Hussars. The word "hussar" was used in Hungary in the 15th century and meant "scout" or "spy".

The Light Dragoons is a title that has been common to all four regiments. The 15th, 18th and 19th were all raised as light dragoons and the 13th's major battle honour is Balaklava, when it was designated as light dragoons.

In the amalgamation of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers and the 17th/21st Lancers now to be called the Queen's Royal Lancers, both regiments were determined to retain their unique historical ties. It has been agreed,



Unlikely duet: Mick Jagger, the Rolling Stone, takes the stage with Tim Renton, the arts minister, at the launch yesterday at the Royal Festival Hall, London, of Britain's National Music Day, which was born of a brief conversation between the two several months ago

(Simon Tait writes). Their first recruit to the cause was Harvey Goldsmith, the rock music impresario, and in his steps and onto the committee have followed representatives of Equity, the Musicians' Union, the Arts Council and the South Bank Centre to plan, Mr

Goldsmith says, an annual celebration of "music that crosses all barriers and all styles". On June 28 there will be simultaneous events in London at Wembley Stadium, the South Bank and the Barbican Centre, while the regions are to be encouraged by 15 provincial org-

anisers. Elton John, Eric Clapton and Prince will be among the big names taking part. Mr Jagger was asked if he had finally joined the establishment. "I think the establishment is the Church and the Queen, and I don't consider myself to be either of those," he said.

Fraud prosecutions

Role of juries in doubt

JUDGE Henry's call yesterday for an overhaul of the way the criminal justice system tackles fraud trials will rekindle pressure for scrapping juries in complex fraud cases.

In recent months, the phenomenon of the "mega trial", highlighted last summer by the Lord Chief Justice, has become increasingly apparent. As well as the Guinness, Barlow Clowes and County NatWest cases, last month saw the record-breaking 16-month fraud trial over the Britannia Park theme park development, which ended with a total cost of £3 million.

Concern has already prompted the Department of Trade and Industry to suggest to the royal commission on criminal justice that there be a rethink of the proposal made by the committee on fraud trials in 1986 under Lord Roskill for abolishing juries in complex cases.

Such trials, the Roskill committee proposed, should be handled by a different kind of tribunal consisting of a judge and two lay assessors. But amid widespread criticism from the legal profession the idea was rejected by the government, which instead

Yesterday's halting of a Guinness trial calls into question the courts' handling of fraud cases, writes Frances Gibb

brought in a package of less radical reforms aimed at simplifying complex fraud trials. There is a growing view that those reforms, enshrined in the Criminal Justice Act 1987, were not enough. David Kirk, head of the fraud unit at the City law firm Stephenson Harwood, said: "These long trials are a tremendous strain on all involved. The reforms in the 1987 act were really tinkering at the edges: in the end it has to come down to the jury."

Judge Henry's comments, he said, were bound to have an impact and to lead to change. One possibility was for complex fraud cases to be tried by a single judge. "Single judges don't have a reputation for convicting more often than juries, or for being much harder."

In spite of DTI support for

radical reform, there is still a large section of the legal profession, including the Serious Fraud Office, which opposes scrapping the jury.

The Bar is fierce in its support of the jury system. Jonathan Caplan, chairman of the public affairs committee, said: "We hold very dear trial by jury and before seeing that abandoned for a special category of case, the Bar would want to be sure that all had been done to strip these trials down to their kernel."

There was a duty on everyone to ensure that only the essentials were dealt with and that complex issues were simplified so that the jury could understand them.

Long trials have also been linked with the phenomenon of the unrepresented defendant. Mr Caplan said: "It does put a terrible strain on a trial if a defendant represents himself. But some people do feel that they know their case best, although it is always misguided because they can't see the wood for the trees. But it is their right and I don't think it should be removed."

Trial halted, page 1
Leading article, page 13

MEPs vote to ban tobacco adverts

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

EURO-MPs yesterday voted for a blanket ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship throughout the European Community from 1993, despite unprecedented pressure in recent weeks from tobacco lobbyists claiming that there is no link between cigarette advertisements and Europe's 430,000 annual deaths: toll from smoking-related illness.

The vote, which came as the British Medical Association and called on the government to support a ban, did not disappoint the tobacco industry, which said that it had expected to lose by a bigger margin. Euro-MPs voted in favour of the European Commission's proposal by 150 to 123.

"It shows our arguments are getting across," Christopher Bullock, of the Tobacco Advisory Council, said.

The draft directive will not become law unless EC countries' health ministers approve it at a meeting on May 15. Britain, Germany and the Netherlands form a blocking minority. Denmark last month changed to supporting a ban because of public opinion. The European

Bureau for Action on Smoking Prevention said yesterday that it hoped that public pressure would force one or all of the ban opponents to follow.

A poll by British Social Attitudes last month showed that 63 per cent of Tory voters, 65 per cent of Labour voters and 67 per cent of Liberal Democrats favour a ban.

The government says that the current voluntary code, with tobacco companies agreeing not to advertise in women's and youth magazines, is more effective and that the number of new smokers in Britain is lower than in some countries where an advertising ban is enforced.

Conservative Euro-MPs were split on the issue yesterday. Bryan Cassidy (Dorset East and Hampshire West) said that it was contradictory for the EC to call for a ban while spending £700,000 a year growing unsealable tobacco that was dumped on the world market. Caroline Jackson (Wiltshire) said that a ban was needed to avoid recruiting of new smokers.

The proposed ban would permit only point-of-sale advertisements.

Policemen jailed for race attack

Two policemen who beat up and racially abused a black scientist were jailed for two years yesterday. Judge Rivlin, QC, also ordered Mark Irvine, aged 28, and Barry Rankin, aged 25, each to pay £500 compensation to Emanuel Ziregbe, their victim.

The two off-duty officers attacked Mr Ziregbe, who was earning extra money as a minicab driver, as they left a public house in Hammer-smith last August after a stag night celebration. Southwark crown court was told. The judge, who was told that Mr Ziregbe had started civil action against the two, said the money was not intended to reflect the true value of his claim but the need for him to be compensated.

Sentencing Irvine and Rankin, the judge said: "Crimes by serving police against the very people they have undertaken to protect are always serious matters. Quite apart from the trauma suffered by the victim they do untold damage to the reputation of the police and public confidence in the police which is so vital in our society."

Counsel for both men said they had destroyed promising careers for "five minutes of lunacy". The two men were convicted of causing Mr Ziregbe, a rubber scientist of Isleworth, west London, actual bodily harm.

The jury, which took nearly ten hours to decide its verdict, acquitted a third officer, Simon Birch, aged 30, of a similar charge. It failed to reach a verdict in the case of a fourth officer, who faces a retrial.

The incident happened last August after all four went to The George in Hammer-smith Broadway, west London, to celebrate a colleague's stag night. Nicholas Lorraine-Smith, for the prosecution, said: "It may be that drink was the trigger to what was some loutish and violent behaviour."

Carey appeal

The Archbishop of Canterbury last night condemned the failure of the market economy to protect the countryside. Dr George Carey called for funds gained through reduced price subsidies to be put back into farm incomes to help to protect the environment. He told the annual meeting of the National Farmers' Union: "We cannot look to the market alone and we must look to the public purse."

Lenders blamed

Mortgage lenders have been too ready to resort to home repossessions and have been giving inappropriate advice to borrowers, says a report by the Catholic Housing Aid Society. It adds that irresponsible behaviour by lenders included granting 100 per cent mortgages, an ad hoc and inconsistent response to arrears from the same lender, and a failure to recover arrears through other methods.

Ashdown gains

The fortunes of the Liberal Democrats have improved since their leader, Paddy Ashdown, told of an affair with a former secretary, according to a poll published last night. It put the Tories (down two points) and Labour (down one point) on 40 per cent and the Liberal Democrats up four points to 16 per cent. ICM interviewed 1,462 people for *The Guardian* on Friday and Saturday.

Joint exercise

British commandos and warships will join Kuwaiti forces in May for the first of a series of military exercises designed to ward off Iraq and other potential aggressors, it was announced yesterday after the signing in London of a defence pact between Britain and Kuwait.

War deaths libel case

Massacre witness says he was forced to exaggerate story

FROM KERRY GILL IN VILNIUS

AN ELDERLY pig farmer who admitted taking part in atrocities against Jewish families during the second world war said yesterday that he had exaggerated allegations against his former commanding officer when taking part in a programme made by Scottish Television.

After giving a horrifying account of the mass slaughter of men, women and children by Lithuanian troops in Belarus during 1941, Juozas Aleksynas, aged 78, told the Scottish court sitting here in Vilnius that he had been forced to elaborate his evidence by the former Soviet authorities.

Mr Aleksynas, one of three elderly witnesses called by Scottish Television, which is being sued for £600,000 by Anton Gecas, a former junior officer in the Lithuanian police, was asked about evidence supplied for the programme, screened in 1987. He said through an interpreter: "I think some exaggeration has been made by myself about Gecas at this time. It was the Bolshevik regime and it demanded that there should be as much accusations against the person as possible."

His remarks, which came at the end of his evidence in chief to the Scottish court, were the first indication that pressure was brought to bear on witnesses to incriminate Mr Gecas, a retired mining engineer, aged 76, who became a naturalised Briton in 1956. Mr Gecas, who lives in Edinburgh, has denied that he was a war criminal.

Mr Aleksynas also admitted under cross-examination that he was forced to make allegations about other people as he underwent physical and mental torture by the KGB during the winter of 1944-5. He admitted to John Simpson, counsel for Mr Gecas: "It went as far as having to say 'write down what you want, and I will sign it.' But he denied making up stories about Mr Gecas more than 40 years later."

Mr Aleksynas, who was subsequently jailed for ten

years for war crimes, has denied that he hanged and shot Communists, commissars and Jews, or that he served in an SS battalion.

The programme alleged that Mr Gecas, after Jewish families were rounded up and shot, had joined German officers to finish off victims. When Mr Aleksynas, the first of three old and frail witnesses being called in Vilnius this week, was asked about this, he said that he had not seen Mr Gecas, his unit commander, actually shoot someone, although he had given orders for shooting to take place.

The court has had to sit in Vilnius because the three men



Aleksynas: jailed for ten years for war crimes were considered too frail or unwilling to travel to Scotland. Mr Aleksynas gave his evidence in an assured and clear voice. He recalled the days between June and November 1941, when his battalion, under the ultimate command of the Germans, aided a massacre of thousands of Jewish civilians after Hitler struck against the Soviet Union.

Speaking in a small court room temporarily under the jurisdiction of the Scottish legal system, he told how his unit, under Mr Gecas, went to the area of Minsk, Belarus, where Jewish families were rounded up, shot and left dead in gravel pits. On another occasion, Soviet prisoners were ordered to dig pits near a birch grove. Lowry loads of Jews were brought to the scene. "As far as I could

see, they were then driven to the pits and shot," he said, adding that Lithuanian troops carried out the murders on German orders.

After an attack on a convoy, the Lithuanians, under the Germans, combed a forest for partisans. When they came across a village, the men were driven to the school. German officers, and Mr Gecas, went to the school. "A person was taken out to the vegetable garden and just shot there. People said there were 18. It was dusk, and as far as I could see, one officer wore a German uniform, and the other a Lithuanian uniform," Mr Aleksynas said.

After he had described another incident in which a mass killing of Jews took place at Slutsk, Mr Simpson, for Mr Gecas, read him a report by the then commissioner for the surrounding territory. The commissioner had regretted that the incident had "bordered on sadism", and that the town had offered a "picture of horror during the action of indescribable brutality, both on the part of the German police officers, and in particular on the part of the Lithuanian partisans".

Mr Simpson put it to Mr Aleksynas that Mr Gecas had not given orders to shoot Jews at the pits, that he was not at the Soviet PoW camp, he was not at the birch grove, nor was he in Slutsk. Mr Aleksynas replied: "So Gecas was nowhere at all."

When Scottish Television came to interview him, Mr Aleksynas said he was collected by car and taken to Vilnius. Although it was the procurator under the Soviet regime who told him of the event, he added that the same procurator was in place in Vilnius today.

Asked if he felt he had been given any choice but to make the statements to Scottish Television, Mr Aleksynas replied: "I was just asked to come and I arrived. I am used to not resisting anything, and in this situation, I just behaved like always."

The case continues today.



All smiles: Marilyn Quayle, wife of the American vice-president, visiting Hawkwood school for the profoundly deaf in Chigwell, Essex, yesterday

Julie Ward lover tells of romance at Kenyan lodge

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

THE last boy friend of Julie Ward, the British woman murdered in the Kenyan bush three and a half years ago, told a hushed court in Nairobi yesterday of their romantic night in a bush lodge.

Stephen Watson, aged 31, described Miss Ward, then aged 28, as romantic, independent and sympathetic. He denied insinuations from James Oren, for the defence, that she was promiscuous.

Before Mr Justice Fidahussein Abdullah in the Nairobi High Court, Mr Watson, a former safari leader who now manages a London cinema, described how he came to spend the night with Miss Ward. Pausing to allow the translator time to turn his words into Masai, he said that he had met Miss Ward when she and a friend had broken down in her Suzuki jeep near the Mara Serena lodge. He had towed them to the bush hotel. They spent the next two days at the hotel talking non stop about Africa and he became smitten with Miss Ward. She invited him to use the spare bed in her room.

"When I got to her room Julie was already in bed, so I got into the other one while she sat up reading," he said. "She put down her book and we continued chatting."

"After about two hours I got out of my bed and sat on the edge of hers and continued talking. After spending 18 to 20 hours talking to her I had become quite fond of her," he said.

Salin Dhanji, the private prosecutor hired by the Ke-

nyan government, asked: "Do you think she reciprocated?"

Mr Watson said: "I'm not sure. She had not made any signs to suggest so. We talked for another hour or so before I plucked up courage to lean over and kiss her first on the forehead."

"I figured if that if she showed any signs of rejecting me that I could pretend it was a kiss good night. She did not seem to object so we continued to kiss for about half an hour before I climbed into her bed," said Mr Watson, whose eyes were red with tears. He said they made love and he returned to his bed.

The next day he tried to persuade Julie to put off her plans to fly to Ethiopia and Ghana before returning to England to set up a business importing African curios. They made a tentative plan to meet up again in Naivasha, which was on Mr Watson's tour route, on September 7.

By then Miss Ward had been missing for two days having been abducted from her car, which was found stuck in a gully near a sand river.

Two Masai game rangers, Peter Kipeen, aged 26, and Jonah Magiroi, aged 28, are charged with her murder. Both men appeared gaunt and hid their faces from the press.

Mr Watson's next word of Miss Ward came when he met her father, John Ward, at the British High Commission in Nairobi, as he was setting up an aerial search for his daughter. Mr Watson joined the search and described how, at the Makari rangers outpost, the base of the two accused Masai, he and Mr Ward found a battery being recharged in the sun. The prosecution is likely to try to show that the battery came from Miss Ward's camera.

Later the court was told of Miss Ward's prophetic note to Doug Morey, a pilot with Airkenya. She left a short letter on his car which said: "Gone down to the Mara for a couple of days - be back Sunday evening sometime. If you fly over a little Suzuki stuck in the mud down there - give us a wave!"

The trial continues today.

Dealer has to return heirlooms

AN ANTIQUES dealer who paid an elderly woman £1,400 for heirlooms valued at £30,000 was yesterday ordered by a judge to hand them back.

The items, bought from the "Aladdin's cave" home of 70-year-old Audrey Prinsep - descended from an Anglo-Indian family that produced several eminent late 18th century and Victorian artists - included a £25,000 painting, *Beauty and the Beast*, by Valentine Prinsep, a Victorian Royal Academician.

Judge Diamond, in the High Court, held that Robert Barrett had obtained the items, including jewellery and ornaments, by fraudulent misrepresentation. He ordered that paintings now held at a London auction house be returned to Miss Prinsep and her brother, Ivan, aged 64, a business consultant in Switzerland.

Mr Barrett, aged 44, was ordered to pay £2,965 damages for items sold before the court case, plus legal costs. He will get back his £1,400. The judge ruled that Mr Barrett's dealings during two visits to Miss Prinsep's flat, in Knightsbridge, west London, in 1989 were invalidated by his misrepresentations.

Mr Barrett, who lives in the Brighton area but gave Miss Prinsep a "contact" address in Kensington Church Street - centre of the London antiques trade - agreed that he was not an antiques expert, the judge said, but had represented himself as able to give valuations comparable to those made by Sotheby's. He had described Miss Prinsep's flat as an "Aladdin's Cave".

The judge said that Miss Prinsep suffered from depression and had spent some time in hospital under a mental health order after parting with the heirlooms. She was vulnerable and naive.

Miss Prinsep had sued through a legal "next friend".

Keays rejected £100,000 offer

SARA Keays's story was "not for sale" in spite of big offers from newspapers after her affair with Cecil Parkinson became public, a solicitor told the High Court yesterday.

Allan Hughes, who acted for Miss Keays between 1983 - when the affair was first reported - and 1989, said that he had received numerous enquiries from newspapers seeking a story, but she was not interested in the money. Giving evidence on

the seventh day of the libel case brought by Miss Keays, Mr Hughes told Mr Justice Drake that one of the offers was in excess of £100,000.

Miss Keays, aged 44, of Marksbury, near Bath, is claiming damages against *New Woman* magazine which she says accused her in a 1989 article of writing a book to try to embarrass Mr Parkinson. The magazine denies libel.

John Previc, QC, for Miss

Keays, asked Mr Hughes how she had instructed him in relation to newspaper enquiries. "My instructions were clear. She was not interested in them. But I considered it my professional duty to relay any figures mentioned, any offers made, to her."

Mr Previc: "What was her reaction?" Mr Hughes: "Total refusal to consider them. Her story was not for sale was the line she took."

The case continues today.

Drivers hold key to thefts

BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

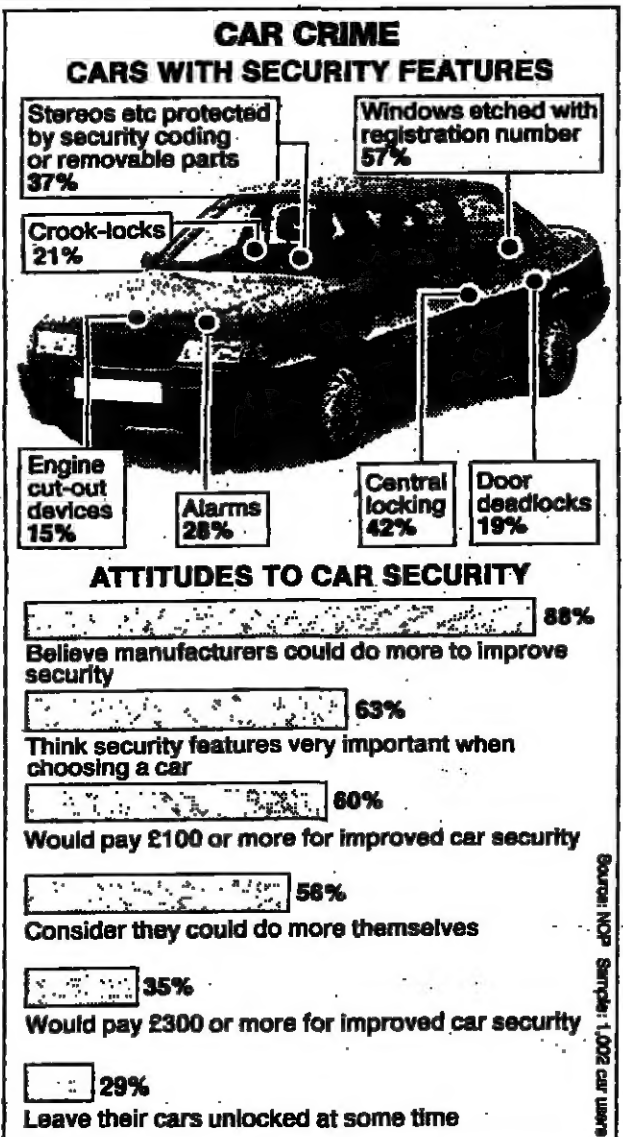
ONE in three people leave their vehicles unlocked at some time, according to a survey published yesterday at the launch of a £5 million campaign to cut car theft.

The findings showed that one in ten people regularly left their vehicle unlocked, most commonly at petrol stations, outside shops and their homes during the day.

According to the survey of 1,002 regular vehicle users carried out over ten days last month fewer than half considered security when parking and 64 per cent blamed apathy, previous luck and the low value of the car for doing nothing to improve the protection of their vehicles.

The government's car crime prevention year is intended to reverse what is seen by Home Office ministers as the public's casual attitude towards thefts of and from cars. It includes television and radio commercials plus a national car care week in June.

European cars, pages 24-6



Cider expects Europe to do its duty

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE European parliament was mulling over a traditional pint of English cider yesterday. On the outcome of its deliberations, the National Association of Cider Makers believes, may depend the future of the £600 million British industry, which makes more cider than all of the rest of Europe put together.

The European Commission, in drafting a directive intended to bring a measure of harmonisation to duties levied by the 12 EC member countries on alcoholic drinks, followed a European Court of Justice ruling that anything made from fermenting fruit should be treated as wine.

The court was upholding a complaint that Denmark had been using lower rates of duty to favour its production of fruit wines against imported wines made from grapes. By making its ruling in terms of source material of drink,

however, the court laid the ground for the argument that cider, made from apples, and perry, made from pears, should be subject to the same rates of duty as wine.

The effect in Britain would be to increase duty on a pint of cider from about 12p to 56p, and that, says the National Association of Cider Makers, "would mean we could say goodbye to the market overnight". They argue that rates of duty have evolved to take account of how drinks are used, as well as how they are made. Cider, they say, is a competitor to beer, not wine, and should be taxed accordingly.

The cider makers' cause, supported by all the main political parties in Britain, has been championed by Mel Read, Labour Euro-MP for Leicester. As a member of the European parliament's economic and monetary affairs committee, Mrs Read was in a position to table amendments to the parliament's draft

opinion on the commission's draft directive.

A spokesman for the National Association of Cider Makers said: "The issue is really only of concern in the United Kingdom. In other member states, the duty levels on wine are so low that it makes little difference."

Cider has enjoyed a resurgence in Britain lately, with sales topping a record 75 million gallons last year. The biggest sellers, excluding supermarkets' own labels, are Bulmer's Strongbow, Gaymer's Old English, Bulmer's Woodpecker, Merrydown, and Taunton's Dry Blackthorn.

However, cider's advance partly reflects the launch of drier premium brands, including Taunton's Diamond White, Dry Blackthorn and Red Rock. Bulmer's Mac, Gaymer's Iced Dragon and Showers' "K", which is at the upper limit of strength for cider without being subject to a heavier rate of duty.

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Mr/Ms/Mist/Ms/Other (please specify) Surname

Forwards

Address

Postcode

Date of Birth

Spouse/Partner's Date of Birth

(There's 10% off if you or your spouse are 50 or over)

Occupation

Spouse/Partner's Occupation

Phone number (inc. STD) Daytime

Home

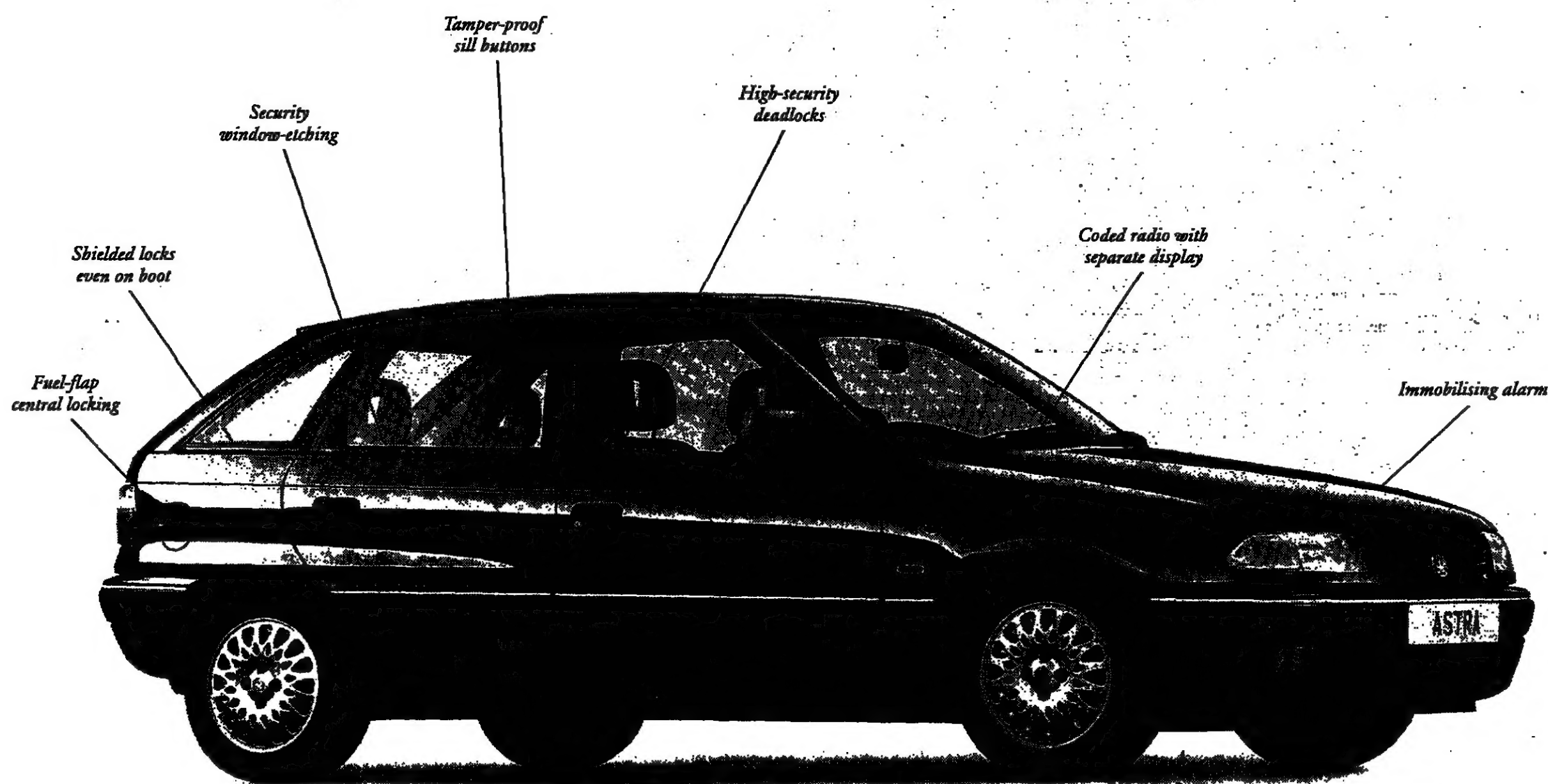
Number of bedrooms

I am a member of a police approved neighbourhood watch scheme. YES/NO

I have a smoke detector installed in my home. YES/NO

Date cover to commence

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Durham cuts clergy jobs as Church tightens belt

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE Bishop of Durham, who recently branded the government "stupid" for permitting the loss of 1,300 jobs in the Yorkshire coalfield, is to announce the loss of one in eight clergy jobs in his diocese. It was disclosed yesterday.

Churchgoers will learn of the cuts in a pastoral letter to the clergy, to be read from pulpits on Sunday. The Rt Rev David Jenkins describes a programme of "rationalising our parishes, deanery by deanery". Ten posts have already gone and 26 will follow, reducing the number to 282.

Durham is the fourth of England's 43 dioceses to announce job cuts, all of which will go through natural wastage. More dioceses, faced with cuts in stipend contributions from the Church Commissioners, are expected to follow this year.

The latest cuts come as priests in the Church of England begin to face the spectre of unemployment. Although most still have security through the clergy freedom, a "job for life", those who wish

to move on are finding it increasingly difficult to do so. Durham is the second diocese to announce the suspension of all freeholds which become vacant in order to rationalise parishes.

A report published this week shows a record number of priests seeking new jobs signed up with the Church's official employment agency last year. More than 500 sought help from Canon Tari Hardaker, appointments adviser for the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, up 48 from 1990.

Canon Hardaker says in his annual report: "The increase in the number of requests for assistance may also be due to some contraction in the number of posts available."

Some dioceses were cutting clergy jobs to stay within their budgets. "There will in consequence be some men and women looking for posts in other dioceses who, two years ago, would have been able to remain in their own diocese," he adds.

It is unlikely other dioceses will be able to absorb the surplus priests and deacons, and there are fewer jobs available.

"In consequence, those who wish to move are going to find it increasingly difficult to do so". He said that so many clergy were looking for new jobs that his staff were stretched to the limit.

Canon Hardaker says that the increase may be because clergy no longer object to their names going on a list for circulation to bishops.

His report is proof that the days when the second sons of gentry obtained wealthy livings in the Church of England through word of mouth and patronage are over. As the recession continues to hit the Church Commissioners about one fifth of the Church's dioceses in England are considering big cuts.

There is no register of unemployed priests, and one Church spokesman said there was "no such thing" as an unemployed priest. However, fewer candidates are putting themselves forward for ordination and the number of serving clergy fell from 11,500 in 1989 to 11,400 in 1990.

Two dioceses, Chelmsford and Lincoln, have already announced plans to cut clergy by up to 10 per cent through natural wastage. Liverpool has proposed a reorganisation in the city centre which would result in a cut in clergy jobs.

Canon Hardaker said: "Nobody keeps statistics on unemployed clergy. I do not think unemployment is a problem for the clergy at the moment, but there are not quite as many vacancies around as there used to be."

Lawyers protest at legal aid delay

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

AS NEARLY 2,000 solicitors gather in London today to confront the Lord Chancellor over his proposals for legal aid fees, the Law Society is urging another minister to intervene over an "intolerable" backlog of millions of pounds owed in legal aid fees.

Philip Ely, president of the Law Society, has urged Michael Howard, the employment secretary with responsibility



Raising a fortune: Victoria Code, of Christie's in London, with part of the 28,000-piece Vung Tau cargo salvaged from the sea

Chinese porcelain for sale after 300 years at sea

A CARGO of Chinese porcelain that sank off the southern coast of Vietnam 300 years ago is expected to fetch £1.5 million at Christie's, in Amsterdam, in April.

Some of the 28,000 blue and white goblets, vases and teapots are encrusted with barnacles but most look as fresh as the day the ship set sail, its cargo destined for the European market. This boost for a moribund art market comes from one of the world's last remaining communist bastions, the Vietnamese government.

The treasure was discovered in 1989 by a Vietnamese fisherman trawling for shellfish who snagged his net on an obstruction 120ft below the surface. The obstruction turned out to be the remains of an Asian junk, originally about 110ft long and 33ft wide, packed with crockery.

The Vietnamese Salvage Corporation, a state-owned

A treasure trove of blue and white porcelain, which lay submerged in the South China Sea for about 300 years, is estimated to fetch £1.5 million at auction, Sarah Jane Checkland writes

company of the ministry of transport and communications, took on the task of salvaging the cargo as a commercial opportunity. The corporation is a government monopoly which undertakes all salvage and sea-bed investigations within the territorial waters of Vietnam. The Swedish company Swerker Hallstrom was enlisted to provide surveying skills and remote-controlled diving vehicles. Interruptions by monsoons meant that the retrieval of the entire cargo took three seasons.

Archaeologists believe that the junk was a South East Asian trading vessel almost certainly bound for the city of Batavia, now Jakarta.

one of the centres for the Dutch trading empire. The premature end to its voyage may have caused by the many pirates who roamed those seas, but it seems more likely that there was a fire on board. Wood salvaged from the wreck indicates that when the vessel sank it had been burnt to the water line.

Apart from a few metal boxes, presumably owned by sailors, the wreck discloses nothing about the crew or its circumstances. Because of this lack of evidence, the consignment has been named the Vung Tau cargo after the nearest city in Vietnam to where it was found. Christie's has gained a reputation for selling treas-

asures from wrecks since its £10 million sale of the so-called Nanking cargo on behalf of the adventurer Captain Michael Hatcher. Colin Sheaf, Christie's Chinese expert, said that he had been approached by the Vietnamese government to undertake the latest project.

Whereas the Nanking cargo consisted mainly of tableware, the Vung Tau consignment was never intended to have a practical function. "It is porcelain for dressing a room, not to eat dinner off," said Mr Sheaf, who hopes to stimulate a return of the 17th century fashion for decorating walls and mantelpieces with "garnitures" or sets of jars in various shapes.

A video recording has been made for potential buyers. Viscount Linley, the furniture maker, is seen on it admiring a wall bulging with jars, and discussing how the porcelain could be

displayed in the homes of today.

Some dealers have expressed fears that Christie's is about to flood the market with blue and white porcelain. The few items from the Nanking cargo that have been offered back on the market recently, they said, had not fared well, and the Vung Tau cargo may suffer a similar fate.

Christie's faces a further difficulty in that its biggest group of potential collectors, from America, are banned from buying because of a US embargo on trade with Vietnam.

Mr Sheaf said yesterday that there were many further wrecks full of similar cargoes off the Vietnamese coast, and if all went well, the market could expect more similar sales. It is not inconceivable that Chinese blue and white porcelain suddenly becomes the biggest design phenomenon of the Nineties.

Porter is cleared of sex attack on rambler

A man was cleared yesterday of a sex attack that left a woman rambler brain-damaged and disabled for life. Darren Nichol, aged 24, was accused of attempting to murder Josephine Chandler during a coast-to-coast walk across the north of England.

He was acquitted after a five-day trial at Teesside crown court in which he did not give evidence. Det Chief Supt Robin Cooper, who led the investigation, said after the verdict: "I will not be reopening the case."

Mrs Chandler, a senior occupational therapist aged 48, of Chepstow, Gwent, was by the Swale near Caterick Bridge, North Yorkshire, when she was attacked in August 1990. She was found by the riverside, badly battered about the head, unconscious and almost naked.

James Spencer, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that the attack had left the fit, active and outgoing Mrs Chandler permanently brain-damaged and disabled and unable to remember anything about it. He alleged that Nichol had assaulted her when she refused his sexual advances.

Nichol, a kitchen porter, of Darlington, Co Durham, was advised by a lawyer not to say anything to police when he was arrested two months after the attack except: "I didn't do anything — I am innocent."

Rape case man found dead

A social worker facing charges of indecent assault and rape was found dead with his lover in a fume-filled car by their house in Little Hulton, Greater Manchester.

Police said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the deaths of Alan Bridges, aged 55, and Sheila Knowles, aged 42. Mr Bridges was to stand trial at Bolton crown court next month.

Mortar alert

Offices in the centre of Edinburgh were evacuated for two hours while army bomb experts detonated second world war grenades, mortars and a large number of bullets in a controlled explosion. They were found by workmen digging a trench.

New station

British Rail is to build a £50 million station in Birmingham's Heartlands development area. It is expected to be completed in the mid-1990s and will be served by all InterCity services now calling at New Street.

Pollution fine

British Steel was fined £10,000 for polluting a wildlife haven on the Tees estuary with effluent from its plant at Redcar, Cleveland. The company blamed freak winds which had caused tanks to overflow.

Four charges

Four drug charges against the Marquess of Bristol, aged 37, were adjourned for six weeks by magistrates at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, after his counsel said he was midway through detoxification treatment at a London clinic.

Super eel

An 8ft conger eel weighing 123lbs caught off Scarborough was landed at Grimsby. According to the Guinness Book of Records, the heaviest conger is 110lbs 8oz.

Tusk forces square up over elephants

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

THE international ban on the ivory trade alone is not enough to save the African elephant, the World Wide Fund for Nature said yesterday.

Senior fund officials attacked this "simplistic" belief in western countries. They said that substantial aid for anti-poaching and other measures were also necessary, and perhaps some trade in elephant products such as hides — anathema to some environmental groups — should be allowed.

At a meeting in London the fund reiterated its support for the two-year-old ivory ban, which a number of African

countries will attempt to overturn at next month's conference in Japan of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. "We strongly oppose any resumed trade because it risks stimulating poaching elsewhere on the African continent," said Simon Lyster, senior conservation officer for the WWF.

Dr Lyster said the fund would support trade in non-ivory products for certain countries, under strict conditions, if it was the only way to guarantee their support for the ivory ban. Some pressure groups, he said, such as Britain's Environmental Invest-

igation Agency, would no doubt call that "selling out the elephant", but their message was misguided. There is a growing split in the environmental movement between animal welfare campaigners, who believe that all life is sacred, and conservationists who claim that some animals such as the elephant will only be saved if local populations have an economic interest.

John Newby, director of WWF's Africa programme, and Holly Dublin, the fund's elephant expert in Kenya, said the West was too Eurocentric. "We have to look at how elephants are relevant to Africans," Mr Newby said. "Many Africans do not want to live with elephants if it means them trampling down their crops." The self-satisfaction in the West after the ban was brought in was not enough, he said.

Dr Dublin said that if demand for elephant products was completely killed, many more elephants might be sentenced to death, because they would cease to have economic relevance to the local people. Simply putting elephants in national parks, did not work, she said, as most countries were too poor to carry out the necessary conservation measures.

Franklin memory kept alive

By John Young

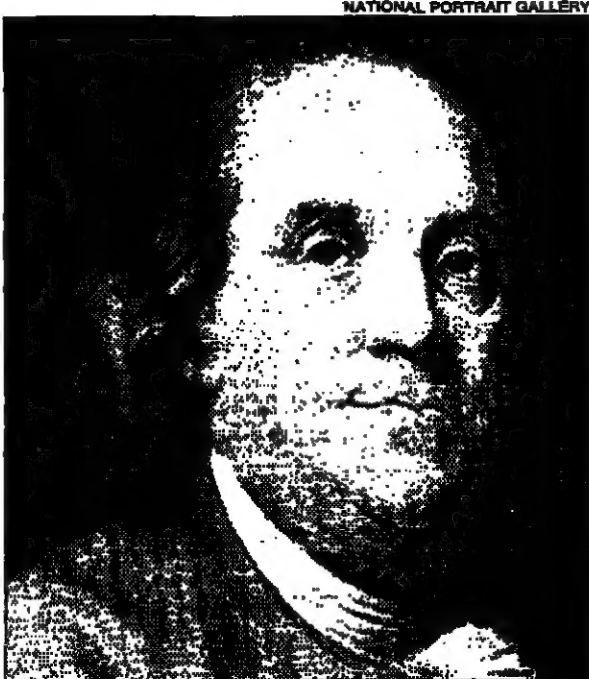
THE United States congress will vote soon on whether to provide about £830,000 towards the restoration of a Georgian terrace house near Charing Cross, central London, the home for 16 years of Benjamin Franklin, one of the fathers of the American revolution.

The Friends of Benjamin Franklin House hope to raise about £15 million to restore the house as a museum, buy the two adjoining properties to provide offices and a study centre, and endow scholarships for American students to attend British universities. The group's supporters include President Bush and Margaret Thatcher.

Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1706, the 17th and youngest son of an English candlestickmaker who had emigrated from Banbury, Oxfordshire. At the age of 17 he left home for Philadelphia, where he became a journalist and politician.

In 1757 he arrived in London where he found "genteel lodgings" at 36 Craven Street. Although he was officially accredited to the Court of St James as the representative of the Philadelphia assembly, he became *de facto* spokesman for all the American colonies — in effect the first American ambassador.

During his time in London he edited his own newspaper, produced pam-



Founding father: Benjamin Franklin, portrayed in the style of Joseph Siffred Duplessis

phlets defending the rights of the American colonists, and wrote several learned papers for the Royal Society. He also introduced the concept of daylight saving time, and is credited with having invented bifocal spectacles and watertight bulkheads for ships, and having drawn the first accurate map of the Gulf Stream. He was awarded honorary degrees by five British universities.

His efforts to prevent a break between the American colonies and the mother country, however, ended in

despair. In 1775 he left London for the last time, and is widely credited with having played the principal part in drafting the Declaration of Independence.

The house was damaged by incendiary bombs in the second world war and was later damaged by vandals. In 1989, at Mrs Thatcher's instigation, the house was presented to the Friends by its owner, the British Rail Property Board, and restoration work began last June. It is hoped to complete the work early next year.

Libs in new sex shocker



'It was five years ago and it only lasted for a few months'

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Law Report
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The voice of reason?

This gentleman would like us to change the way we do certain things in this country.

And to be fair, there are others who feel as he does. This week a Member of Parliament will introduce a Private Member's Bill which, if enacted, would do just what our friend above would like. It would ban hunting in Britain.

This would be a tragedy for Britain, and a disaster for our countryside.

Hunting is an important part of life in the country, and is one of the forces which shapes the very appearance of the countryside.

If it were not for hunting and other country sports, much of our woodland and many of our hedgerows, which are

the support for an extraordinary range of wildlife, would simply not exist.

Foxes are certainly not harmless and domesticated creatures. They are cunning and ruthless predators and they inflict great damage. Reducing the fox population by hunting is not cruel. If it were, few people would support it. Yet, every week during the season, hundreds of thousands of men and women from all walks of life come out to support hunts throughout Britain.

They enjoy the atmosphere and the display, reassured by the knowledge that generations before them did the same. They watch the skill of man and hound working together. They appreciate and respect country ways.

But for some people hunting is much more than a pastime. Many families, in fact, derive their livelihood from it. Independent research shows that well over sixteen thousand people, many living in areas of high unemployment, would lose their jobs if hunting were to be banned – the equivalent of closing Ravenscraig twelve times over!

Those who support hunting believe that this important part of the British way of life must be protected. People who hunt care about animals. They also care passionately about the countryside, and wish to protect and preserve it for the generations who are yet to come.

Thousands ask only that they be allowed to do so.

The voice of reason?

Lynn Anderson – Midwife
Ron Appleton – Veterinary Surgeon
Gee Armytage – Champion Jockey
Marcus Armytage – Grand National Winner
Ian Balding – Trainer
Sue Barker – Nurse
Duke of Beaufort
Geoff Benney – Farmer, Cornwall
John Bilsland – Gardener
Chay Blyth – Sailor
Ian Botham – Cricketer
Geoff Brooks – Farmer, Leics
Raymond Brooks-Ward – TV Commentator
David Broome – World Champion Showjumper
Douglas Bunn – Hickstead
Ann Cairns – Art Director
Sir Raymond Carr – Historian
Willie Carson – Champion Jockey
Bob Champion – Grand National Winner
Rosie Cheetham – Publisher
Michael Clayton – Editor
Bea Cole – Children's Author
Susan Cooper – Vicar's Wife
Richard Course – Conservationist
Humphrey Cragg – Engineer
Bob Crumplin – Railway Worker
Douglas Cuff – Carpenter
Jim Dodsworth – Haulage Contractor
Frances Donaldson – Biographer
Ted Dunning – Policeman
Richard Dumwoody – Jockey
Ted Edgar – Showjumper
Dick Edwards – Farmer, Glamorgan

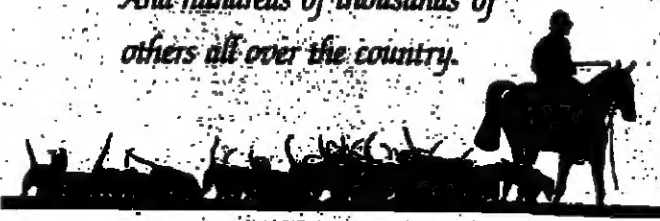
Sue Evans – Secretary
Peter Farnaby – Plant Hire
Max Fawbert – Hairdresser
Marsha Fitzalan – Actress
Dick Francis – Author
Ann Franks – Riding School Owner
Brian Funnell – Taxi Driver
Will Garfit – Artist
Tracey Garret – Riding Teacher
Geoff Gillies – Taxi Driver
Sir Alistair Grant – Retailer
Lucinda Green – World Champion Eventer
John Hall – Designer
Lyn Hamilton – Caterer
Ann Hanson – Farmer, Northumberland
Lord Hanson – Industrialist
Robert Hardy – Actor
Tim Hart – Hotelier
Guy Harwood – Trainer
John Hawksworth – Film-Maker
Adam Helliker – Journalist
Angela Herring – Nurse
Jimmy Hill – TV Commentator
Fraser Hines – Actor
Ann Hogarth – Secretary
Bill Hollowell – Livestock Dealer
Patricia Hooper – Teacher
Anne Jepson – Accountant
Bob Jones – Farmer, Hereford
Len Kail – Calf Dealer
Lord King – Industrialist
Peter Kivell – Auctioneer
Rory Knight Bruce – Editor

Allan Lamb – Cricketer
Aubrey Langley – Digger Driver
Professor F W Leakey – Academic
Virginia Leng – World Champion Eventer
Tony Lister – Surveyor
Tony Mackintosh – Restaurateur
Baroness Mallett – QC
Mick Mallard – Car Dealer
Ruth Martin – Home Economist
Ann Martyn – Designer
Carl Maspel – Writer
Sam McCluskey – Trade Unionist
Graham McCourt – Gold Cup Winner
Richard Meade – Olympic Champion
John Mortimer QC – Author
Penny Mortimer
Tony Nash – Bobsleigh Champion
Ralph Newman – Cattle Dealer
Paul Nicholson – Brewer
Robin Page – Naturalist
Derek Parker – Journalist
Bob Payton – Restaurateur
Ed Leigh-Pemberton – Land Agent
Helena Perks – Doctor
Richard Pitman – TV Commentator
David Pountney – Opera Producer
Helen Randall – Social Worker
Ann Reardon – Housewife
Jan Reynolds – District Nurse
Jane Ridley – Historian
Janet Robson – Hotelier
Ken Ruddle – Brewer
Bill Sargent – Ice-cream Maker

Dorothy Schofield – Secretary
Jeremy Scrutcheon – Doctor
Professor Roger Scruton – Academic
Peter Scudamore – Champion Jockey
Mike Seckington – Veterinary Surgeon
Simon Sherwood – Gold Cup Winner
Christine Simpson – Farmer, Northumberland
Michael Sissons – Literary Agent
June Skelton – Livery Yard Owner
Nick Skelton – Showjumper
John Skeplehorn – Publican
Geoff Snow – Farm Worker
Alan Spelman – Builder
Julie Spencer – Editor
Ian Stark – Olympic Champion Eventer
Professor Norman Stone – Oxford Historian
Walter Swinburn – Derby Winner
Robin Hanbury Tenison – Environmentalist
Ellen Thomas – District Nurse
Professor F M L Thompson – Historian
Ron Tindale – Builder
Mike Tomans – Estate Agent
Brian Trubshaw – Concorde Pilot
Laurie Vines – Gamekeeper
Peter Walsyn – Trainer
Lord Whitelaw
Pat Withers – Physiotherapist
Julian Wilson – TV Commentator
Austin Wright – Farmer, Yorks
Jonathan Young – Editor

And hundreds of thousands of others all over the country.

Support the Campaign for Hunting and protect our countryside.



Challenger orders his generals to the war room for final election assault



Bill Morris: a baptism of political fire

NEIL Kinnock will next week call together senior members of the shadow cabinet, national executive and trade unions to draw up a battle plan for the final month before the general election campaign proper gets under way.

As he did in 1987 Mr Kinnock has formed his "leader's committee", which traditionally oversees the campaign, well before the election is called. His predecessors used to wait until the starting-gun was fired.

The membership of the committee is never officially announced, and its doings are secret. It is the apex of a pyramid of informal committees which for months, under the chairmanship of Jack

Labour's "leader's committee", which reflects all wings of the party, is preparing itself for battle in the months ahead, Philip Webster reports

Cunningham, the campaign's co-ordinator, have been quietly plotting the campaign.

It is chosen to reflect the three main arms of the party, the shadow cabinet representing the party in parliament, the national executive representing the party in the country, and the trade unions, who will put up most of the money for the campaign.

The two key union figures on the committee are Bill

Morris and John Edmonds. For Mr Morris it will be a baptism of fire: he officially takes over from Ron Todd as general secretary of the transport workers' union next March. Mr Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union and one of the most influential figures in the movement, also sat on the committee in 1987.

Shadow cabinet members of the committee include Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader,

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, Mr Cunningham, Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary and campaign chief at the last election.

From the national executive Mr Kinnock has chosen, among others, John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, and Jo Richardson, spokesman on women's rights. Both are also members of the shadow cabinet.

Surprise has been voiced among some Labour MPs that Gordon Brown, the shadow trade secretary, and Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, two of the party's fastest rising stars, are not on the committee. Both of them, however, are known to

be relaxed about it. Mr Kinnock wanted to keep the size of the committee within bounds and there were limited places.

Any suggestions that Mr Blair and Mr Brown are being squeezed out are wide of the mark. Both have already been earmarked for high-profile roles during the campaign.

Mr Brown, it is understood, is a member of the key group that meets every Monday morning to draw up the strategy for the week ahead. Chaired by Mr Cunningham, it is usually attended by Mr Hattersley, Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, Bryan Gould, and key party officials such as David Hill,

the communications director, and representatives from Mr Kinnock's Commons office.

Each day there are smaller meetings, usually in Mr Cunningham's office, attended by Mr Hill, Philip Gould, who heads the shadow communications agency, which co-ordinates party research, polling and advertising activities, and the shadow ministers involved in the day's campaigning launches.

Mr Cunningham also chairs another committee that is engaged purely on tactics for the election campaign itself, and there are subgroups developing the party's strategy for London, and co-ordinating the fight for marginal seats. Their

work will now go before Mr Kinnock's committee.

Mr Cunningham has been engaged on election planning from the time he was appointed campaign co-ordinator well over two years ago. According to insiders the machine is well-oiled, having already been cranked up twice for possible elections last June and in November.

Labour's strategy has been based throughout on trying to close down John Major's options as they arise. But when they meet in the shadow cabinet room next week the members of the leader's committee will be working, like virtually everyone else at Westminster, on the expectation that April 9 is the day.

Opposition attacks lack of funding for new employment plans

Tories welcome workplace reform

By Ross TIEHAN AND PETER MULLIGAN

GOVERNMENT plans announced yesterday for the reform of employment law and training practice were hailed by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, as creating new "ladders of opportunity" starting at school and continuing through life.

Ministers are seeking to present the white paper *People, Jobs and Opportunity*, as Britain's answer to the EC social charter. But Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, condemned the lack of new spending promised to back up the plans: "The only jobs Mr Howard and his colleagues are interested in saving in the coming weeks are their own jobs at the general election. Like so much else in the last 13 years, they will fall in that too."

Conservative MPs were admitting that the white paper was a clear electioneering exercise and Tory supporters offered only limited backing as Mr Howard was questioned on his Commons statement.

The white paper marks a further government effort to promote the substitution of individual contracts for collective bargaining, but Mr Blair criticised its "anti-poaching" provisions as weak. The white paper set out a series of proposals designed to limit trade union power and encourage individuals to "negotiate" directly with their employers. It is intended to promote the development of a highly trained, flexible workforce, responsive to local variations in pay and conditions.

The government plans a

modest extension of the protection afforded to employees by personal contracts. The white paper provides for employees to be able to enforce contractual severance terms through an industrial tribunal rather than the civil courts, saving both time and expense.

The government is also seeking suggestions about how best it can promote legally enforceable contracts between employees and employers on training. However, many personnel managers believe such contracts, which could give rise to payment of "transfer fees" for skilled workers, to be largely unworkable. Mr Blair said that the proposal to reimburse employers should an employee receiving training leave prematurely had been "kicking around for years" but had been rejected because people left jobs to seek promotion or for family reasons.

Mr Howard also plans to implement a European Commission directive requiring everyone employed for more than eight hours a week to receive a contract.

Most of the changes represent little more than fine-tuning of the existing strategy, however. Nor will they cost the government much money. Mr Howard said the most significant new proposal was a scheme to introduce credits which would enable workers to buy careers guidance and counselling about training.

The scheme, to be administered by selected Training and Enterprise Councils

(TECs) in England and Wales, and by Local Enterprise Companies (LECs) in Scotland, will cost the government £25 million in its first two years, and cover 250,000 adults. The workers, or their employers, will be expected to contribute to the cost of counselling.

Mr Howard will also encourage Tecs and Lecs to make training equipment and course material available at local libraries.

The white paper also contains four measures, carried over from a recent green paper, which strike at trade union power. Users of a public service would be enabled to take legal action against unlawful disruption caused by industrial action. The government also plans to assist people to become members of the trade union of their choice, to compel union leaders to publish details of their salaries, and prevent abuse of the "check-off" arrangements under which union subscriptions are deducted from workers' pay.

Labour MPs scorned Mr Howard when he admitted there would be no "new" money for the initiative, which would be funded out of the existing employment department budget. He said the cost over two years of the "skill check" initiative would be £25 million, while the pilot scheme for vouchers for the unemployed would be £3 million.

"We shall make the necessary funds available. I shall be discussing in due course with David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, exactly



Howard: praising "ladders of opportunity"

where the money is to be found," he said.

In electioneering question time exchanges earlier, Eric Forth, the junior employment minister, claimed that flying pickets and violent protests could return under a Labour government. He said chaotic scenes such as those during

the 1984 miners' strike had been stopped by the government's "commonsense" policies. Only 765,000 working days had been lost to industrial action over the 12 months to November 1991, the lowest figure for 70 years. *People, Jobs and Opportunity*, HMSO, £8.60.

Kinnock calls for action to halt job losses

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NEIL Kinnock last night wrote to the prime minister demanding "direct action" to curb rising unemployment, while Conservative MPs exploited the government's increase for teachers' pay to criticise Labour's tax policies.

Following the announcement of heavy redundancies by the Gateway supermarket chain, Mr Kinnock urged the government to provide incentives for manufacturers to bring forward investment as the CBI had urged. He also wanted them to begin a phased release of local authority capital assets to combat the severe recession in construction industries. The government should not, he said, continue to depend solely on an upswing in consumption which was not yet perceptible and which would not prevent unemployment continuing to rise for some months to come even when it did materialise.

In the Commons, on the prompting of Tory MP Andrew Mackay (Berkshire East), John Major confirmed to MPs that more than 120,000 teachers were already earning more than the £20,280 a year ceiling for national insurance contributions which Labour intends to raise.

The government believed,

he said, that at least an extra 50,000 would fall into that category following its acceptance in full of this year's public sector pay awards. Conservatives, he emphasised, had no plans to raise the national insurance contributions ceiling.

In further exchanges the prime minister said: "We believe that excess taxation is iniquitous when we are seeking to encourage people both to save and invest in our economy."

Questioned by Robert Sheldon, the former Labour Treasury minister who sits for Ashton-under-Lyme, about the government's degree of responsibility for the growing number of failed companies, Mr Major was less forthcoming. He replied: "As you know, the essential basics to make sure things are right are to keep inflation down, keep interest rates down, have the right tax structures and continue with the improvements in industrial relations we have had in recent years."

He insisted that the CBI was opposed absolutely to Labour's proposals on tax changes, a minimum wage and trade union laws. "Each of these policies would be deadly for the future of British industry, British jobs and British companies."

Classes for adults safe, MPs are told

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

KENNETH Clarke yesterday sought to reassure MPs that adult education courses would not be affected by changes in the provision of higher and further education which he is putting forward. There was no threat to the existing pattern of adult non-vocational education, he told the Commons.

Moving the second reading of the Higher and Further Education Bill, the education secretary said that local authorities would continue to be responsible for adult education. The level of fees and the range of courses would be

matters for the local education authority. They would receive funds to enable them to carry out their duty to provide adult courses. The level of subsidy would be a matter for the authority.

The bill removes colleges of further and higher education from local government control, with their funds being provided by a funding council. Mr Clarke emphasised that the polytechnics had thrived since they had changed to this system a few years ago.

He said that young people would need to be better educated and trained to be able to face up to the demands of modern life. This meant providing a wider range of further education opportunities, and this the bill would do.

There had to be a more diverse range of institutions and colleges to provide a wider range of academic and vocational courses without any diminution of standards. Mr Clarke envisaged up to 90 per cent of all young people attending some type of college.

The bill also allows polytechnics to call themselves universities, and Mr Clarke said that if they changed their names he hoped they would retain their existing ethos.

He accepted changes to the bill made when the government was defeated in the Lords. One change is to ensure the provision of religious education in sixth form colleges, and another provides for a weekly act of worship.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Delay over governor for colony

The new governor of Hong Kong is unlikely to be appointed until after the general election, the Earl of Caithness, a foreign office minister, said in the Lords.

Lord MacLachlan of Beoch, who was governor of the colony from 1971 to 1982, said the present was not a good time for the appointment, throwing in a new element of uncertainty and misunderstanding when they had just got back on the rails after the mass killings in Tiananmen Square, Peking, in June 1989.

Estate cash

The estate action programme has now passed the £1 billion mark, Tim Yeo, an environment minister, said when he announced the allocation of a further £16 million. The total has been allocated to or earmarked for about 1,000 schemes in the government's programme for the worst rundown council housing estates. In the next financial year the budget for the programme will rise to £364 million.

Peace dividend

The attainment of peace in Angola has opened the prospect of a more substantial aid involvement. Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, said in a written reply. Present British plans include help for forthcoming elections and for resettlement of refugees, displaced persons and ex-combatants; and continued help with teaching English.

Schools limit

The transport department is to conduct trials with 20mph speed limits outside schools at times when children are arriving or leaving. Christopher Chope, the roads and traffic minister, said in a written reply.

Aid continues

The government is to continue with aid projects in Indonesia already agreed, despite the East Timor shootings last November. Lynda Chalker, overseas aid minister, said in a written reply.

Under review

Wages councils have no permanent place in the labour market and their operation remains under review, Eric Forth, an employment minister, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and industry. Consolidated Fund Bill when a variety of topics can be raised. Museums and Galleries Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Debates on weapons of mass destruction and on the Scottish economy.

A smile on the face of your caring, sharing taxman

By TIM JONES

The incidents were not related, but Francis Maude, financial secretary to the Treasury, was unable yesterday to attend a press conference at which he was to announce to eight million grateful "customers" that in future their taxes will be collected, if not with a smile, then in a more efficient and caring manner.

Mr Maude was trapped inside the Treasury in Whitehall because of a security alert and was unable to travel the mile or so to Somerset House where he was due to outline the latest manifestation of John Major's citizen's charter.

Had he been able to make the journey, he would have said: "People don't expect to love the Inland Revenue. But the collection of tax is an uncomfortable necessity. All the more reason for it to be done well. There was more good news. He would have added: "That doesn't mean squeezing every last penny out of the taxpayer. It does mean, as the Taxpayer's Charter says, that taxpayers are entitled to expect the Inland Revenue to collect the right amount of tax in a fair, helpful, efficient and accountable way."

In spite of the new mood of "glasnost" sweeping the country, Mr Maude, or his speechwriter, continued in a vein which had about it echoes of the Somme. Referring to his employees he said: "Already, all frontline staff wear name badges, identify themselves on the telephone and sign their own letters."

As part of the process, the department's 800 (sic) main customer forms are being assessed to see how easy they are to complete, how they inter-relate with each other and whether any can

be done away with. One of the main changes will be a redesigned and simplified general tax return form for issue in 1993. This is the principal tax form most people receive and the one which the majority consider so baffling they never complete in time.

Mr Maude had also planned to say: "Taxpayers are entitled to know where they stand. They should be able to get answers to questions. They are entitled to have letters answered fully and promptly. They should know who to complain to if things go wrong. And they shouldn't have to fight their way through labyrinthine forms and deplorable leaflets."

Mr Maude, from his latest measures would involve a target time of 28 days for tax staff to reply to customers' letters. He aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of replies and to test the demand for more flexible opening hours of tax enquiry centres by trying, from April, early morning and evening opening in 17 places.

Also from April, there will be named customer service managers in each of 34 revenue executive offices which are being established. To complete customer satisfaction, the revenue's extensive range of leaflets will be colour coded to make them more attractive to read. Teach-yourself tax videos will also be available for people running small businesses.

Sadly, Mr Maude has discounted any suggestion of taxpayers being able to claim a rebate if the tax charter does not live up to expectations.

Ashdown goes for the PR prize

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown staked his general election hopes yesterday on convincing voters that good government could come about only through far-reaching political reforms.

Launching a *Good Government Guide* the Liberal Democrat leader said he recognised the risks from his strategy but believed there was a far greater prize to be won. "More and more people are now coming to under-

stand that Britain's weakness is the fault not just of those in government, but of the system of government itself."

To endorse the party's commitment to constitutional reform, three of his MPs, Menzies Campbell, Robert Maden and Jim Wallace, are promoting bills advocating home rule for Scotland, a proportional representation system of voting and a Bill of Rights.

Today's party political broadcast will also be devoted to the need to change the political system.

Mr Ashdown, who has made reform of the voting system a pre-condition for dealing with a minority government after the general election, said yesterday that Britain's problems would not be solved by a change of nameplate on 10 Downing Street.

Labour pledges better deal for women

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock yesterday promised a better deal for women under a Labour government. Launching a new magazine spelling out the party's policies for improved benefits for women, Mr Kinnock said that women made up the majority of the population, the majority of carers and the majority of the poor.

"This working and caring majority has been neglected by a Tory government that has been and continues to be both indifferent to the real circumstances of women and willing to ignore their great potential," Mr Kinnock said. The party would ensure there was a nursery education place for every three- and four-year-old whose parents wanted it by the year 2000.

Hilary Armstrong, Labour's spokesman for childhood services, said that more than 22,000 extra nursery places could be provided in the first year, funded from the £50 million capital switched from the city technology programme.

Revenue costs would be released by making sure that Tory councils did not divert money allocated for under-fives to keep poll tax bills down. At least 20 local education authorities were not spending their full allocation from the standard spending

assessment on the under-fives. If these Tory councils were forced to spend their allocation this would provide 22,930 places, she said.

Mr Kinnock, who was joined on the platform by seven women shadow ministers, said Labour would ensure that the "enterprise, energy, skill and judgement of women are fully utilised in shaping the future."

The present government had reduced basic employment and benefit rights and cut training opportunities for women, he said.

"There is not a single woman in the cabinet, and the government has refused to adopt any part of the social charter and now the social charter, which would help to provide decent working conditions for women in Britain."

Labour would introduce new rights and protection for part-time workers, improve maternity rights, introduce a minimum wage and new rights to training, backed by a new ministry of women, he said.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, dismissed Labour's proposals as "a string of vague and largely uncosted commitments laced with a sprinkling of lofty sentiments, few of which address the real concerns of women."



Ladies' man: Neil Kinnock, with some of his shadow cabinet, launches a women's campaign

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The Soviet coup attempt

Jailed plotters offer verse and vitriol

By IGOR BARANOVSKY AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

AS ROMANTIC memories of last August fade and nostalgia grows in some quarters for strong, old-fashioned government, the 13 generals, spies and bureaucrats jailed after the coup have grown increasingly bold in the statements they are managing to convey to the public.

In recent days, the disgraced defence minister, Dmitri Yazov — the man who called himself an "old fool" after the rebellion collapsed — has thundered forth his disgust at the triumphalist spirit in which America is allegedly gloating over the Soviet Union's collapse.

In a long, signed article in the headline daily, *Sovetskaya Rossiya* — the proceeds of which he offers up to the families of Russian soldiers who have been killed in ethnic wars — Marshal Yazov deplored Washington's refusal to match the Russians' disarmament gestures.

At last weekend's communist rally in Moscow, which heard strident demands for the 13 "political prisoners" to be released, demonstrators queued to buy leaflets of poems from prison by Anatoli Lukyanov, the sleek parliamentary chairman and life-long associate of Mikhail Gorbachev, competent if somewhat clichéd compositions on such predictable themes as "longing for freedom" and "human ingratitudes".

In one, the silver-tongued manipulator of parliamentary procedure sees himself as part of a long line of suffering Russian bards: "What a path of martyrdom we have traversed, the warriors and poets of Russia."

The supreme self-confidence that used to be one of Mr Lukyanov's hallmarks has apparently faded him, according to Aleksandr Shchukin, an investigator with the Russian prosecutor's office who has played a key role in interrogating the conspirators.

In an interview to be published today by *Moscow News*, Mr Shchukin says it is

the parliamentary chairman who has taken confinement hardest, suffering a virtual nervous collapse and speaking in the most vulgar of Moscow street slang.

Friends of Mr Lukyanov have leaked to the Italian daily, *La Stampa*, a document purporting to be a diary kept by him during the coup — which if authentic would suggest that he tried to defuse the situation and restore democracy.

Mr Shchukin says the most striking thing in Mr Lukyanov's diaries is his fascination with the luxurious conditions in which he was accommodated on foreign visits.

The poet-politician's journal is apparently studded with entries like "... best hotel in Switzerland", "... excellent wine served by the mayor" and "stayed beside a gorgeous lake" — all testimony to how difficult Mr Lukyanov must be finding things in jail.

According to Mr Shchukin, by far the most co-operative of the prisoners is Gennadi Yanayev, the vice-president, who is remembered by the world for his trembling hands during the conspirators' lamentable press conference.

While insisting that he was roped into the conspiracy only at the last moment, Mr Yanayev is apparently the least bitter of the prisoners and the least inclined to complain about the food and living conditions.

"It is easy and pleasant to work with him," says Mr Shchukin, who goes on to deny the reports by aides to Mr Gorbachev that the vice-president was dead drunk at the time of his arrest.

The lifelong servant of the an atheist state apparently showed considerable relief at the news that he had not — as he feared — been excommunicated by the Russian Orthodox church, which he feared had placed him beyond redemption until the Orthodox patriarch reassured him.



Food teams lift Moscow morale

FROM GENEVIE ABDO IN MOSCOW

VLADIMIR Cheptsov grinned between bites of a pork chop. "Aid gives us hope that the world has not forgotten about us," he said.

Cameras flashed and reporters reached for their microphones to catch the words of the elderly Muscovite at the canteen on Lyublinskaya Street. He was one of many people who were taking advantage of the free lunches given by Operation Provide Hope, the American emergency airlift to the former Soviet Union.

Others, who are more accustomed to sitting down to a dour lunch of soup and brown bread, tucked into pork chops, mashed potatoes and vanilla pudding beneath the glare of television cameras. The street canteen is one of 19 in Moscow that have been designated to serve hundreds of thousands of hot meals to the poor and the elderly as part of the airlift which began on Monday.

Within two weeks, at least 54 planes carrying food and medicine will land in cities in the Commonwealth of Independent States to help people

who are suffering from severe food shortages, high prices and plummeting living standards.

The airlift is Washington's answer to criticism that it had not done enough to help people in the former Soviet Union. It has been criticised by some people as a publicity stunt. But for Maria Dordorina, aged 64, an invalid who was eating from a small tin of vanilla pudding, the relative merits of the airlift were not important. "I am thankful with all my heart," she said. "I think the food in America is definitely better than it is here."

"If this is capitalism, then let's have more of it," said Mr Cheptsov, who, after eating a big lunch, took his vanilla pudding home for a midnight snack.

While the Russians are, American volunteers dressed in neatly-pressed blue uniforms sang folk songs. The Muscovites said they had never seen such friendly faces in a public place. "This is such a surprise for us," said one. "In public canteens, we are used to dealing with hostile people who never smile." (Reuter)

Historic double: US soldiers, above, exchanging souvenirs with a Ukrainian colleague in Kiev, reminiscent of meetings 47 years ago, below, in Germany



Stasi files surrender grim truth

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BERLIN

WHILE Erich Mielke was recovering in his prison cell yesterday from his first day in court, the victims of the former East German security chief were queuing at the Stasi storage centre in east Berlin to study the files he had assembled about them.

"The court can do nothing which can punish him enough for what he did to me and my country," said Franz Arndt, a teacher who had discovered that one of his best pupils had been reporting about him in return for a promise to get a better education. Two years after his fall from power, Herr Mielke's sinister past continues to intrude into the future of east Germans at every level.

Yesterday in Potsdam, Manfred Stolpe, the Social Democrat prime minister of Brandenburg, held another press conference to explain why he had 1,000 meetings with Stasi agents in the days when he was connected with the Evangelical church leadership in the East. He said he was now receiving hundreds of letters of support.

Stasi songbirds, L&T, page 12

Racist jeers greet roadside birth

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE plight of a Somali woman who gave birth unassisted beside a road in southern Italy as a crowd stood by and jeered prompted telephone calls yesterday of solidarity and job offers.

The indifference shown by Italians to Fatima Yusuf, aged 28, when she went into labour on the outskirts of Castelvolturno near Naples on Friday provoked condemnation from across the political spectrum and calls for authorities to introduce legislation to curb the burgeoning racism against immigrants in Italy.

"I will remember those faces as long as I live," Ms Yusuf, who was born in Mogadishu, told *Corriere della Sera* as she recovered in hospital from her ordeal. "They were passing by, they would stop and linger as if they were at the cinema careful not to miss any of the show. There was a boy who, sniggering, said, 'Look what the negress is doing'."

First succour was only provided to the immigrant mother when a passing police car stopped half an hour after her baby boy Davide was born, according to *Il Messaggero*. She was taken to a hospital at Caserta. The baby, weighing less than 5lb, was placed in an incubator. Television reports of the incident brought telephone calls to the hospital from as far afield as Turin expressing solidarity with Ms Yusuf.

The semi-official Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, said that the bystanders who jeered were "not worthy of the word man. Now there are many statements of solidarity from every region to try to make her forget and to convince her that humanity has not been extinguished in the hearts of Italians."

Livia Turco, women's affairs spokesperson at the Democratic party of the Left, the former Communist party, said that the episode "throws an obscure and disturbing light on the real level of humanity and civilisation of our country."

An influx of immigrants from the Maghreb and other parts of Africa has eroded traditional Italian hospitality to foreigners, political experts say.

Ms Yusuf said: "In my country they would have helped a woman who is about to give birth, foreigner or not."

Cresson survives Habash debate

Paris: France's conservative opposition, with one eye on regional elections next month, accused the government yesterday of undermining the authority of the state over George Habash, the Palestinian radical who was allowed into France for hospital treatment in Paris.

Edith Cresson's minority Socialist cabinet survived a no-confidence vote, since the Communist party said it would not support the right-wing motion, reducing the parliamentary debate to an exercise in rhetoric.

Franck Borotra, the conservative RPR party spokesman, said the government's decision to punish civil servants for allowing Mr Habash into France while ministers escaped responsibility had created "a severe crisis of state". M Borotra declared: "You no longer have the authority to govern. It is true there is no majority to overthrow you, but there is no majority to support you either. That is why you did not ask for a vote of confidence."

Five senior officials and the head of the French Red Cross were forced to resign after Mr Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, linked to a string of aircraft hijacks, arrived in Paris on January 29, apparently without ministers' knowledge. (Reuter)

Village burnt

Moscow: Armenian guerrillas have attacked and burnt down the Azerbaijani village of Malybeli in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, according to television reports. Several people were killed and the village is now cut off. (Reuter)

Gold hunt

Tirana: Investigators in Albania are looking for gold thought to have been hidden by the former communist rulers or sold to finance their expensive lifestyles. A parliamentary commission has reported that large quantities of gold have vanished. (Reuter)

Madrid strike

Madrid: Hundreds of thousands of people in Madrid struggled to work on foot or through chaotic traffic jams when underground train workers, unhappy about the progress of negotiations on pay and conditions, joined bus crews on strike. (Reuter)

Orange aid

Rome: Fifteen tonnes of Sicilian oranges have been flown to Minsk for children affected by the 1986 nuclear power station disaster at Chernobyl, in Ukraine. Fresh fruit, rare in Belorussia, was requested by the former Soviet republic's government. (Reuter)

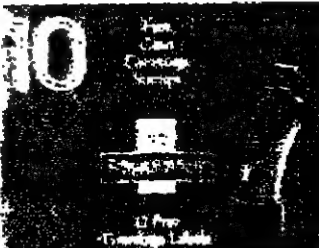
Torture arrests

Rome: Naples police said they had discovered a Mafia torture chamber in which a clan boss used Spanish-style garrotes on his own gang members to keep them disciplined. Four people were arrested, including the gang boss's girlfriend. (Reuter)



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WITH A
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Royal Mail

House of squalor betrays its secrets

PODRIGA state hospital, in the remote Moldavian region of northern Romania, looks impressive from a distance. The nobleman's house with its turrets and stone columns is really a crumbling mass of bricks. The stench of human filth and blocked drains is the first sign of the degrading conditions inside.

There are 87 mentally and physically handicapped people in Podriga with no running water and hardly any heating during a winter where temperatures drop to minus 15. An annex is worse than a stable block for horses: the stench of urine is matched only by that of human excrement.

Eyes staring, bare feet freezing on a slippery cobb floor, the patients are among the tens of thousands of handicapped people forgotten by the new government in Romania and left to exist in squalor.

Yesterday Mircea Marescu, the Romanian minister of health, admitted his department had no idea of the conditions in these hospitals. He promised to carry out an immediate survey and examine the possibilities of providing basic amenities for the worst cases.

At Podriga he was unaware that young adults are malnourished and many of

British MPs have been appalled by the fate of Romania's handicapped, Ray Clancy writes from Podriga



Barred from hope, a patient locked in a Podriga cell them look as if they were aged 10 or 12, or that mixed dormitories are locked at night and the patients suffer sexual abuse.

Aid workers at Podriga says the biggest worry is fire. "I have had nightmares that one morning I will turn up to find a pile of charred remains," said Sophie Thurnham, aged 24, who works at the hospital for the Scottish branch of Romania Project UK.

Yesterday her father, Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton Northeast, saw Podriga during a fact-finding visit to Romania by the Parliamentary Human Rights Group. He said he was appalled by people being "kept like animals". He was concerned about staff who have been stealing food and clothes sent from abroad.

"Things are relatively good here because most of the people are not wanted by their families. If they were not here, they would be on the streets," said

Avram Gheor Ghe, chief doctor of the Botosani health district. He admitted conditions were terrible, but said it was a matter for the government. "There are many other problems that have top priority, such as the railway tracks."

One of the most disturbing aspects about Podriga and many other institutions in Romania is that the system appears to be getting worse. Without a proper administrative structure, nothing gets done.

Anthony Coombes, secretary of the parliamentary group and Conservative MP for Wyre Forest, said the most urgent problem in Romania was motivating staff. After visiting a psychiatric hospital at Poroschia, south of Bucharest, he was appalled by the attitude of senior managers. With 36 staff and five doctors caring for 97 patients, there was "no excuse for the place looking like the black hole of Calcutta".

He told the minister of health that Britain would like to help to improve psychiatric care in Romania. "But the only way to tackle this is from the top. By ensuring that there is a system of independent inspections every six months so that we do not have the misery that is present now," said Mr Coombes.

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Baddest man around is left to fight personal demons



Givens: humiliated Tyson on television

IF IRON Mike Tyson, the street mugger from Brooklyn who soared to the summit of the sports world and crashed in an Indianapolis court, is ever to return to the professional ring, he will have to defeat a host of inner demons which were always destined to destroy him, his friends and admirers said yesterday.

The conviction on rape charges of the world's youngest heavyweight champion was no bolt from the blue for a boxer who revelled in his reputation as the "baddest" man around. Trouble had dogged him since his early years when, the child of an alcoholic mother, he roamed the New York streets as a mugger who used his extraordinary gift for fighting to fend off jibes about his thin, girlish voice. As the world yesterday observed the tragedy of the 25-year-old prodigy gone wrong, supporters saw him as a victim of a money-mad sports machine which groomed him for glory while neglecting his inner turmoil.

Others saw him as a martyr to a "white system" intent on bringing down black heroes.

"Mike is in an intense state of denial," said Montith Illingworth, the author of his biography, after he watched a dazed-looking Tyson roar away in his motorcade of limousines from the Indiana courthouse.

Cus d'Amato, the late promoter who extracted the 13-year-old Tyson from reform school and taught him to box, had "never dealt with a boy who had acquired unimaginable wealth and celebrity before the age of 21, but had never grown up."

This flaw led him not only to continue a life of riotous

debauchery and fist-fights, but to help himself to any woman who took his fancy. "I like to hurt women when I make love to them," he told Jose Torres, another biographer, in a much-publicised remark. "I like to hear them scream with pain, to see them bleed."

Others see in Tyson's destructive trail of fights and assaults on women, all of which were smoothed over until the Indianapolis case, a lesson about the cruelty of the modern celebrity machine. Boxers had often fallen foul of the law and some, like Carlos Monzon, the former middleweight champion, had even been convicted of murder, but no prizefighter had ever made it to the top with such a pattern of antisocial behaviour as Michael Gerard Tyson.

In earlier times, heroes of the "noble art" were revered for their civility out of the ring. Floyd Patterson, a ghetto child like Tyson, could walk away from a drunk who punched him in the nose saying his fists were only for the ring. Tyson was different because he was adored as a vicious fighter with barely a redeeming quality: a living "lethal weapon", a survivor of the mean streets and model for the new pop culture in which only might is right.

If he had not found salvation through boxing, he was certain, he would die violently or in jail. Many tried to find another explanation other than violence behind the undeniable magic which Tyson wrought on the public, a power which

Mike Tyson, champion boxer turned convicted rapist, is on the brink of the end of his career; was he the villain or a victim? Charles Bremner investigates

would be to shed his current entourage; men such as Don King, the promoter, who were "part of his problem," said Mr Illingworth. George Foreman, the former champion and a man who has been worrying about Tyson in public for years, agreed that his best hope would be "to surround himself with a different group."

The verdict of the Indianapolis jury amounted to a stunning "reality check", to use the vogue expression, for a boy who had acquired unimaginable wealth and celebrity before the age of 21, but had never grown up.

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debauchery and fist-fights, but to help himself to any woman who took his fancy. "I like to hurt women when I make love to them," he told Jose Torres, another biographer, in a much-publicised remark. "I like to hear them scream with pain, to see them bleed."

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calling him a violent manic depressive on national television and then, after a few months of marriage, won more than \$10 million in a divorce settlement. Tyson has undoubtedly played the role of dupe, most notably in the case of a Los Angeles woman who extracted thousands of dollars in child support payments from him until a court-ordered genetic test proved the child was not his.

The court in Indianapolis chose to believe only the version of Tyson the thug, an image reinforced, amazingly, by his own lawyer when he decided to depict his client to the jury as a primitive animal with the courtship manners of a caveman.

Even that loss, at the hands of Buster Douglas two years ago to the day, was blamed on his gullibility at the hands of scheming women. He had been brought down, supporters said, by the machinations of Robin Givens, the actress who married him with a declaration of pregnancy in 1987, humiliated him by

Court verdict, page 1
Diary, page 12
Revenge motive, page 12
Boxing's loss, page 31
British chances, page 32

White House officials admit to campaign disarray

1996 candidates 'put the skids under Bush'

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

TODAY George Bush will make the announcement that he will make today at the Washington J.W. Marriott Hotel.

The White House team is still, as its junior members readily admit, in poor shape: "inchoate on a good day, chaotic on a bad day", as one put it. The president is under pressure from an eloquent conservative opponent, Patrick Buchanan, whose campaign has done enough to continue after New Hampshire votes, virtually whatever the result.

Mr Bush seems to have no stock of rhetorical ammunition to fire back. With a prepared speech in his hand the president too often sounds like an automaton. Without a

text, he sometimes seems so deranged that correspondents have reached for their medical dictionaries. His State of the Union address benefited from some last-minute patina applied by Peggy Noonan, the former Reagan speechwriter. However, she is reported as being unwilling to return full time to the fray.

Optimists in the White House, led by Samuel Skinner, the new chief of staff, say that a recent reorganisation will cure these problems. "We have had a lot to do in four weeks," was Mr Skinner's reply to weekend charges of his arrogance, disorganisation and inadequacy.

The man who gets the

blame from the new regime is John Sununu, the former chief of staff, who until he was pushed out before Christmas tried to do every job in the building and whose reluctance to relinquish power was an insuperable bar to beginning the re-election attempt.

Mr Sununu, it is charged, stopped the president getting the economic bad news last autumn, encouraged complacency and made the president seem more out of touch than he needed to be.

Mr Skinner's own management continues, however, to come under heavy "friendly fire". He has brought in Clayton Yeutter, the former Republican party chairman, as a domestic policy chief. He hopes thereby to still conservative complaints about the moderate influence of Nicholas Brady, the Treasury secretary, and Richard Darman, the budget director. But Messrs Darman and Brady are still in power and at least as ready, it seems, to fight Mr Yeutter as to take on Buchanans or Democrats.

Discipline is slack. Jack Kemp, the housing secretary, said last week that the state of the union address was full of gimmicks, a direct challenge to the president's own claim that the Democrats were the gimmick-mongers. As one experienced Republican consultant put it yesterday, the White House has too many "candidates" (Mr Kemp, James Baker, Richard Cheney among other hopefuls for 1996), and too few "policemen" prepared to do the hard job of winning this year.

The best weapons in Mr Bush's armoury are the usual ones: disarray among the Democrats and the belief in the White House that the economy will soon be growing again.

President Bush goes to New Hampshire after his announcement speech today. He will host small meetings with voters, and pursue support on street corners. But he is prone to gaffes such as pulling out a huge wall of dollar bills to buy a breakfast for lorry drivers and saying "I'm loaded". Last week, at a grocers' convention, he was reported making excited comments on the futuristic wonders of electronic supermarkets scanners, a technology which, as the *New York Times* pointed out, has been known to Americans who do their own shopping for more than a decade. The White House said it was a new kind of scanner.

Leading article, page 13



Dates of primaries and caucuses for the presidential election campaign

THE following calendar of events lists the date, followed by state and primary or caucus. The first number is the number of Democratic delegates the state sends to the party convention, followed by the number of Republican delegates.

February 18: New Hampshire primary 24-23
February 23: Maine caucus 54-37
February 25: South Dakota primary 20-19
February 26: Colorado primary 54-37
Georgia primary 88-52
Idaho caucus 24-22
Maryland primary 80-42
Minnesota caucus 57-32
Utah caucus 28-27
Washington caucus (Dem) and primary (Rep) 80-35
March 5-19: North Dakota caucus 20-17
March 7: Arizona caucus 47-37
South Carolina primary 50-36
Wyoming caucus 19-20
March 8: Nevada caucus 23-21
March 10 ("Super Tuesday"): Delaware caucus 19-19

Florida primary 160-97
Hawaii caucus 20-14
Louisiana primary 69-38
Massachusetts primary 106-38
Mississippi primary 44-33
Missouri caucus 86-47
Oklahoma primary 53-34
Rhode Island primary 28-15
Tennessee primary 77-45
Texas primary 214-121
March 15: Puerto Rico primary 57-14
March 17: Illinois primary 183-85
Michigan primary 148-72
Connecticut primary 61-35
March 31: Vermont caucus 20-19
April 2: Alaska caucus 18-19
April 7: Kansas primary 42-30
April 11: Virginia caucus 92-55
April 28: Pennsylvania primary 188-91
May 5: District of Columbia primary 30-14
Indiana primary 87-51
North Carolina primary 93-57

Ohio primary 167-83
May 12: Nebraska primary 31-24
West Virginia primary 39-18
May 19: Oregon primary 53-23
May 26: Arkansas primary 43-27
Kentucky primary 61-35
June 2: Alabama primary 62-38
California primary 393-201
Montana primary 22-20
New Jersey primary 117-60
New Mexico primary 33-25

Total number of Democratic delegates to be chosen, including 12 from US territories, nine for Democrats abroad and 265 "superdelegates", is 4,287. The Democratic convention is held from July 13-17 in New York.

Total number of Republican delegates to be chosen, including 12 for Republicans abroad, is 2,209. The Republican convention is held from August 17 to 21 in Houston.

The traditional opening of the presidential campaign is Labor Day, September 7. Election day is November 3.



Home and dry: Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa hugs his wife, Ruth, at a rally in Des Moines after gaining an uncontested caucus victory, giving him a fleeting lead in the Democratic presidential nomination race

Democrat front-runner tumbles in primary polls

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TOM Harkin, a senator from Iowa, won a huge although largely meaningless victory when his home state kicked off the 1992 presidential elections with party caucuses on Monday night. A more significant development in the presidential race came nearly 1,000 miles away in New Hampshire, where polls for the first time put Paul Tsongas ahead of Bill Clinton, the Democrats' troubled front-runner.

A Gallup poll for Cable News Network and USA Today revealed that Mr Clinton, battered by allegations of adultery and draft dodging, has fallen 11 points in four days to 26 per cent. Mr Tsongas, on the other hand, with his austere economic prescriptions, has jumped nine points to 33 per cent.

The trend was confirmed by another poll, for *The Boston Globe*, which showed Mr Tsongas, a former Massachusetts senator, two points ahead of Mr Clinton with 26 per cent. A third poll, for a New Hampshire television station, put Mr Tsongas first with 28 per cent, but also showed 42 per cent of the

state's Democrats still undecided on a candidate.

A week before New Hampshire's primary, these poll results pose a real dilemma for Democrats. The party had rallied early behind Mr Clinton because of his "electability", but that has now been badly undermined. Mr Tsongas' message is appealing, but he has no organisation outside his native New England, and is widely regarded as unelectable. The other three candidates have singularly failed to impress.

Speculation that Mario Cuomo, New York's governor, could yet be lured into the race is growing, and a "write-in" campaign on his behalf in New Hampshire is gathering momentum.

In Iowa, Mr Harkin won with approximately 77 per cent of the delegates selected, easily beating the previous record of 59 per cent obtained by Jimmy Carter against Edward Kennedy in 1980. But the voting system was heavily weighted in his favour and no other candidate had bothered campaigning in his rival's territory. Barely 25,000 Democrats voted: 120,000 did so in 1988.

Mr Tsongas came a morale-boosting second, albeit with just 4 per cent. The only real loser was Bob Kerrey with 2.2 per cent. He trailed fourth after Mr Clinton despite the regional advantage of being the senator from neighbouring Nebraska. Jerry Brown, the fifth Democratic contender, won just 1.5 per cent of the delegates. Iowa sends 57 delegates to the party convention in July.

Caution: may still be thrust into the race

UN seeks 'green barter'

Cartagena, Colombia: A United Nations body has proposed tackling global warming through a system of trading emission permits between rich and poor nations. Under the scheme, developing countries would be granted more permits than they needed while industrial countries would receive fewer.

In another move President Collor de Mello of Brazil led an appeal by eight South American nations for help from the West to preserve the world's largest tract of tropical forest. (Reuters)

Forced exit

Hong Kong: Thirty-six Vietnamese boat people were due to be flown home early today in the first forced deportation from Hong Kong since last week's riot in the colony's crowded Sek Kong detention centre, in which 23 north Vietnamese died in a fire.

Army reforms

Caracas: President Perez announced a reorganisation of the Venezuelan army, a week after rebel troops tried to overthrow him. He said that changes, which include the high command, were aimed exclusively at improving army operations. (AFP)

Science applied

Tucson, Arizona: A panel of scientists has been chosen to review Biosphere 2, the project which has been accused by critics of cheating in its attempts to create a self-contained world that can produce its own food, air and water under glass. (AP)

Re-trial sought

Rio de Janeiro: Two ranchers convicted of killing the Brazilian rainforest defender, Chico Mendes, are appealing for a re-trial because two jurors had told newspapers they thought Dary Alves da Silva and his son, Dary Alves Pereira, were guilty. (AP)

Salvador rebels emerge from wilderness claiming victory

AT A rickety trestle table on the far edge of Los Mazariegos, René Quintebos is stapling together copies of the United Nations peace plan for El Salvador for distribution to local guerrillas.

They venture out from their vantage points in the surrounding wilderness to collect the minutiae of a peace deal signed by their leaders in the left-wing FMLN (Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front) and the right-wing government after negotiations lasting 20 months and agreed this month.

Force of habit makes Señor Quintebos, a guerrilla for the past 12 years, flick a

wary eye at the horizon now and then, above which two vultures circle inauspiciously. There is scant activity in Los Mazariegos, apart from the scrawny hens and pigs competing to scratch a meal from the dust.

The village presents a scene of sun-baked torpor. Until recently, however, it was the scene of some of the worst butchery that raged in the Suchitoto region, 35 miles north of San Salvador, the capital.

In common with thousands of rebels throughout the country, Señor Quintebos is preparing to give in his Kalashnikov at one of the United Nations-

El Salvador's guerrillas, pleased with promises of land reform, prepare to lay down their arms. Anne McElvoy writes from Los Mazariegos

supervised depots in the coming weeks and return to civilian life. He is in charge of the resettlement of 125 families who fled the area to escape the fighting. The men and teenage boys still wear the red-and-white scarves of the front, a symptom of a culture and identity that has grown up around the conflict and whose divisions will long mark El Salvador.

The returned families shelter from the blazing sun under canvas propped up on bamboo poles none of their homes is left standing. The women queue for clean water from a single standpipe. Food is provided by an American church charity—agriculture has been wrecked by the scorched-earth policy pursued by government forces as they tried to force the guerrillas back

into the hills.

Señor Quintebos exchanged his combat fatigues for jeans and T-shirt last week and does not hide his delight at the end of the war. He summarises the pleasures of peace succinctly: "More freedom, less fear and tranquillity at last."

During the war he was able to see his wife and children only twice a year after she, with most of the women, fled to San Salvador.

Apart from war weariness, the main reason for the front's readiness to embrace peace is the perception that the armistice represents a victory for its cause. The right-wing gov-

ernment of President Cristiani has had to agree concessions on land reform, including a clause limiting the amount of land any individual may own which is contested by the powerful coffee growers.

Former rebels will be allowed to join the peace force that is to replace the paramilitary security forces linked to the infamous death squads. The army of 70,000 will be halved and the government has promised to set up a commission to investigate human rights abuses.

Despite opposition to the settlement from the extreme right, Señor Cristiani was

realistic enough to see the inadvisability of trying to continue the war as American support rapidly seeped away. The Reagan administration committed America to funding the war when it sought to draw the line against the spread of Soviet influence in its "backyard" in 1980 and poured \$4 billion (\$2.2 billion) in aid into the country.

Atrocities and the realisation that the war against the front could not be won militarily weakened Congress's enthusiasm for such unwieldy philanthropy. The collapse of the Soviet threat removed the last excuse for such intervention.

March to Indian border

Kashmiris forced back by tear gas

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MUZAFFARABAD

PAKISTANI troops using tear gas drove back hundreds of Kashmiris attempting to cross into India yesterday while Indian soldiers, under orders to shoot anybody crossing the border, watched from concealed positions.

Another much larger wave of Kashmiris heading for the border spent last night camped in the mountains in sub-zero temperatures, without food or blankets, after they were prevented by the Pakistani authorities from getting close to the dividing line. They will try to reach the border today.

The narrow mountain road.

from Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistani-controlled "Azad" (free) Kashmir, was blocked by large numbers of Indian and rock slides created by government engineers using explosives. Vehicles were forced to stop. Ten thousand people clambered over the barriers and continued their journey on foot, cleaning out a few villages of food as they passed through. As night fell, 5,000 of them were still bent on continuing to the border village of Chokothi, 30 miles from Muzaffarabad. There, large numbers of troops and police await them.

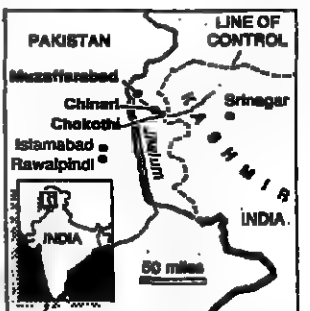
Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, prime minister of the nominally independent government of Azad Kashmir, said that, after a long day of marching, a night in the cold and possible confrontations today with the police and army, the protesters would be in no spirit to launch a determined attempt to cross into India. Mr Qayyum, who flew by helicopter along the line of control dividing Kashmir, said attempts to enter India were made at four or five points.

Amanullah Khan, aged 57, leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, organising the march as part of its fight for a reunited, independent Kashmir, free of both Pakistan and India, rode as far as he could in a jeep, then started walking. He said he was still determined to cross into India.

The Pakistan government is deeply embarrassed. Its resistance to the resurgence of Kashmiri nationalism makes a mockery of its condemnation of India's similar position on the other side of the border. One repercussion could be a decision to end support for the uprising in the Kashmir valley to prevent a breakaway movement spreading in Azad Kashmir.

Delhi Indians of varying political loyalties staged anti-Pakistan demonstrations here yesterday, burning Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, in effigy and denouncing his alleged support for Kashmiri secessionists.

In Chandigarh, leaders of a Sikh religious organisation were arrested yesterday after urging a boycott of next week's elections in the Indian state of Punjab. (AFP, Reuters)



Mao's music gets karaoke touch

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

When Chairman Mao said that revolution was not a tea party, he might have felt it unnecessary to add that it was nothing to do with karaoke either. But in nightclubs throughout China, young people are singing and dancing to revolutionary songs which have been dusted down and brought up to date with a rock and roll beat.

Parents given to the occasional nostalgic rendition of *The East is Red*, or the emotional ballad *Unity Above All* may be surprised to find their offspring humming the same tunes after a late night out at the local karaoke spot.

Artistically, the results of the hybrid revolutionary rock are disastrous, creating a hitherto unknown form of heavy metal with surreal lyrics. But that does not seem to be worrying Chinese youth, and artistic disasters have never worried the Communist leadership. What does concern the leadership is whether the dancers are singing along with their tongues firmly in their cheeks or whether their souls have genuinely been imbued with revolutionary spirit.

Communist officials introduced Maoist karaoke tapes into China's nightclubs last year in an attempt to lure young people

away from love songs being imported from Taiwan and Hong Kong. The Communist party decided that the imported music had no moral backbone, and that the videos which accompanied the songs would corrupt socialist youth.

Hardliners, such as the veteran ideologue, Deng Ligu, have revelled in the success of the Maoist revival, calling it healthy and progressive. But yesterday a Shanghai newspaper, *Liberation Daily*, dared to suggest that maybe young people were in fact engaging in that popular youthful pastime, mockery of themselves and of Chinese politics.

In January, shops in the Eastern province of Anhui sold a hundred thousand copies of Mao's portrait. The official Xinhua news agency said this was because residents of Anhui, which was struck by floods last summer, were grateful to the Communist party for helping them recover from the disaster. Many peasants worship Mao portraits.

One man who will not be amused by the Maoist revival is Deng Xiaoping, aged 87, the senior leader who spent years in the early 1980s persuading the Chinese that the late chairman was a good chap, but far from godlike.



Ring of romance: Konishiki, aged 28, a champion heavyweight sumo wrestler, and his bride Sumika Shioda, aged 27, a former fashion model from Hokkaido island, after their Protestant wedding in Tokyo yesterday. Konishiki, an American from Hawaii

whose real name is Salevan Afsanoe, has been nicknamed "Dump Truck". At 576lb, he is the heaviest sumo wrestler of modern times and reportedly five times heavier than his bride. President Bush sent him a congratulatory telegram. Asked at a press conference how many children they would have, Konishiki replied that they would let nature take its course. The wrestler, who has been ill, repeatedly mopped his brow and cooled himself with a paper fan. The couple met in 1987. (Reuters)

Branson to keep his feet on the ground

Richard Branson says he is dropping his Peter Pan image at 41. He will not be taking part in the Virgin Earthwinds round-the-world balloon trip that sets out from Akron, Ohio, next week because his father has told him it is time he grows up and faces the risks.

A lawyer for New Kids on the Block has filed a slander suit against a former producer who claimed that the pop group did no more than 20 per cent of the singing on their records. Last week, a Chicago fan sued the New Kids for \$75 million (£41 million), claiming they had defrauded consumers.

John Tate, who won the world heavyweight boxing championship when he defeated Gerrie Coetzee in 1979, has been charged with breaking a man's jaw and stealing about £8 during a robbery in Tennessee.

The Irish group U2 is to tour North America from the end of this month, giving 32 concerts in 31 cities. The band's first such tour since 1987

comes as its album *Achtung Baby* and single *Mysterious Ways* top the American charts. The Boston band The Fades will support them.

Elizabeth Taylor is to celebrate her 60th birthday with an extravaganza for a thousand guests at Disneyland in California. The party, on February 27, is being organised by her husband, Larry Fortensky, and a group of friends.

The former Indonesian first lady, Dewi Sukarno, is to be tried for allegedly stabbing a New York socialite in the face with a champagne glass during a party in Aspen, Colorado, last month. The fight is said to have broken out when Victoria Ocasio, grand daughter of a former Philippines president, called the former first lady a whore.

The Prince of Wales has been elected to the French academy of moral and political sciences in recognition of his outstanding contribution to cultural affairs. The citation praised his "written and oral interventions in various essential areas."

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All roads lead to internment

Jailing godfathers of both sides would heal Ulster, says Conor Cruise O'Brien

John Major has done well to show his personal concern for Northern Ireland at a time when the whole population of the province is living in fear after two political-sectarian massacres in quick succession: last month's killing of the eight Protestant building workers by the IRA and last week's killing of five Catholics by Protestants in a Belfast book-maker's shop.

Mr Major talked yesterday with the leaders of the constitutional parties. He is likely to have heard conflicting advice: from the Unionists, with an emphasis on security, and from the SDLP, with an emphasis on the necessity of reaching a political solution. If Mr Major has followed the example of his predecessor (from 1985 on) he will have paid a lot more attention to John Hume of the SDLP than to Ian Paisley and James Moynihan. But Mr Major and his advisers ought now to take stock of what exactly the results have been, over more than six years now, of basing British policy in Northern Ireland on Mr Hume's advice.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement of November, 1985, is Mr Hume's brainchild. He convinced Garret FitzGerald, then Irish prime minister, that it was the right way forward, and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs then applied its considerable powers of persuasion to the task of selling the idea to Whitehall. The agreement was signed at Hillsborough on November 15, 1985.

The governing concept of the agreement, eloquently propounded in advance by Mr Hume, was that the basic difficulty of Northern Ireland is the alienation of the minority. If you could only end the alienation of the minority, then "the reconciliation of the two traditions", and peace, would in due course follow. As expounded by Mr Hume and his Dublin disciples, that sounded an attractive idea in Whitehall at the time. But it should surely be obvious by now that it has not worked.

The poppy day massacre of Unionists by the IRA at Enniskillen came within a week of the second anniversary of the Hillsborough agreement. In the wake of those deaths, Sir Charles Carter handed down a chilling verdict on the agreement: "It has alienated the majority community, without reconciling the minority." Those words are even more evidently true today, four years later. Every single year since the Hillsborough agreement has seen higher levels of violence than in 1985, the year of its signing.

Those who swallowed the story about "ending the alienation of the minority" seem to have assumed that after the Hillsborough agreement Mr Hume and his friends would advise their supporters to co-operate with the security forces on a regular basis. No such advice has been given. Hillsborough was only a start, it seems, in the process of ending

minority alienation. Mr Hume still has a long shopping list, of which the culminating item is to be "an agreed Ireland": a Humane euphemism for a united Ireland. While getting on with his shopping list, Mr Hume advises against a "military solution", meaning the defeat of the IRA.

The view from the Protestant side of the hill is that its armed enemies, the IRA, ensconced in the Catholic areas and with the silent collusion of their inhabitants, can regularly murder Protestants, and if the security forces are powerless to protect them, "then we must protect ourselves". If 1992 continues as it has begun, it will see the highest levels of political-sectarian violence since the Provisional IRA offensive began more than 20 years ago.

If that trend is to be checked, the emphasis has to be put back on security, specifically on the even-handed repression of the terrorists of both communities. For that purpose, by far the most promising weapon is selective internment of both sets of terrorist godfathers.

'Internment failed in the 1970s when applied to one community only. It need not fail if it is applied evenhandedly'

We are constantly being told that "internment has been tried and failed". It failed in the 1970s, when it was applied to members of one community only. It need not fail in 1992 if it is applied evenhandedly. At most everybody in Northern Ireland, this month, would have a sigh of relief if they knew that both sets of godfathers were in detention.

Hume, in opposing internment, is not necessarily representative of the mood of his community in the aftermath of the Ormeau Road massacre.

It is being said that internment will not work unless it is applied on both sides of the border. That may be true, but internment is not likely to be introduced in the republic until a favourable example has been set by its evenhanded application in Northern Ireland.

If internment is introduced in Northern Ireland, some of the godfathers will escape to the republic. They will not be welcome there, the mood in the republic being more hostile to the IRA at present than at any previous time. The arrival of the refugee godfathers, and their activities, could provide the signal for the introduction of internment in the republic. But the British government will have to make the first move.

At his press conference after his election as leader of Fianna Fail, Albert Reynolds was asked about internment. He did not rule it out but said that "any consideration of internment would have to face up to the previous experience". More significantly, Mr Reynolds is reported as having "added that he was not about to dictate to the British government". I take that to mean that, if Britain decides to introduce internment, Dublin will not raise an international hubbub, as it did on the last occasion.

The time is ripe for internment in Northern Ireland, and it will then soon be ripe in the republic.

A bill of rights is the only answer to excessive Whitehall rule, argues Anthony Lester QC

Mandarin Britain

judicial services commission; the Lord Chancellor as a full-time minister of justice and law reform; and a written constitution defining governmental powers.

From Mr Patten's lyrical description of the British constitution as a "decent and well-built house... comfortable to live in, a setting for the nation's life", one would not suppose that the UK has been found guilty of more serious violations of fundamental human rights than any other European country; or that we are a deeply disunited Kingdom, especially in Scotland and in Northern Ireland; or that we have an over-centralised system of government; or that our political masters are obsessed with preserving unnecessary official secrecy; or that our voting system is unfair; or that we have no code of civil rights and liberties to guide lawmakers, administrators, judges and ourselves; or that we have been badly misgoverned by successive administrations that have treated us as subjects rather than citizens.

The government regards Charter 88's proposals for constitution-

al renewal, in Mr Patten's words, as "false shadows". But they are not shadowy to other Commonwealth democracies, such as Australia, Canada, India and New Zealand, which have successfully modernised their systems in many of the above respects. They are also in place in other European democracies. We need the developed principles of European public law to protect us, when faced with sweeping ministerial powers.

We also need a constitutional public service. It is unacceptable in a modern democracy that Home Office ministers and civil servants should claim the right to ignore court orders when acting in their public duties. Two centuries ago, the Act of Settlement recognised that "the law of England are the birthright of the people" and that all the Queen's ministers and officers ought to serve "according to the same".

Yet today's ministers, temporarily exercising power on our behalf, argue that they are ultimately accountable only to Parliament, and cannot be proceeded against for contempt in the Queen's courts

for disobeying judicial orders. Their claim to be immune is presumptuous. Were it upheld, it would, in Lord Donaldson's strong words, be "a black day for the rule of law and the liberty of the subject".

The government is especially hostile to a British bill of rights incorporating the European Convention and the International Covenant into our legal system. Mr Patten relies on the "long, slow and expensive process" of suing in British courts as an argument against incorporation.

Such delays are caused by the government's refusal to appoint sufficient judges. Even so, the English judicial process is not nearly as long, slow and expensive as having to complain to the European Court of Human Rights. What we need are speedy and effective remedies in our own courts for breaches of our basic rights and freedoms, with the European Court as a last resort.

According to Mr Patten, Parliament "is the place where individual rights should be determined and defined". Parliament certainly

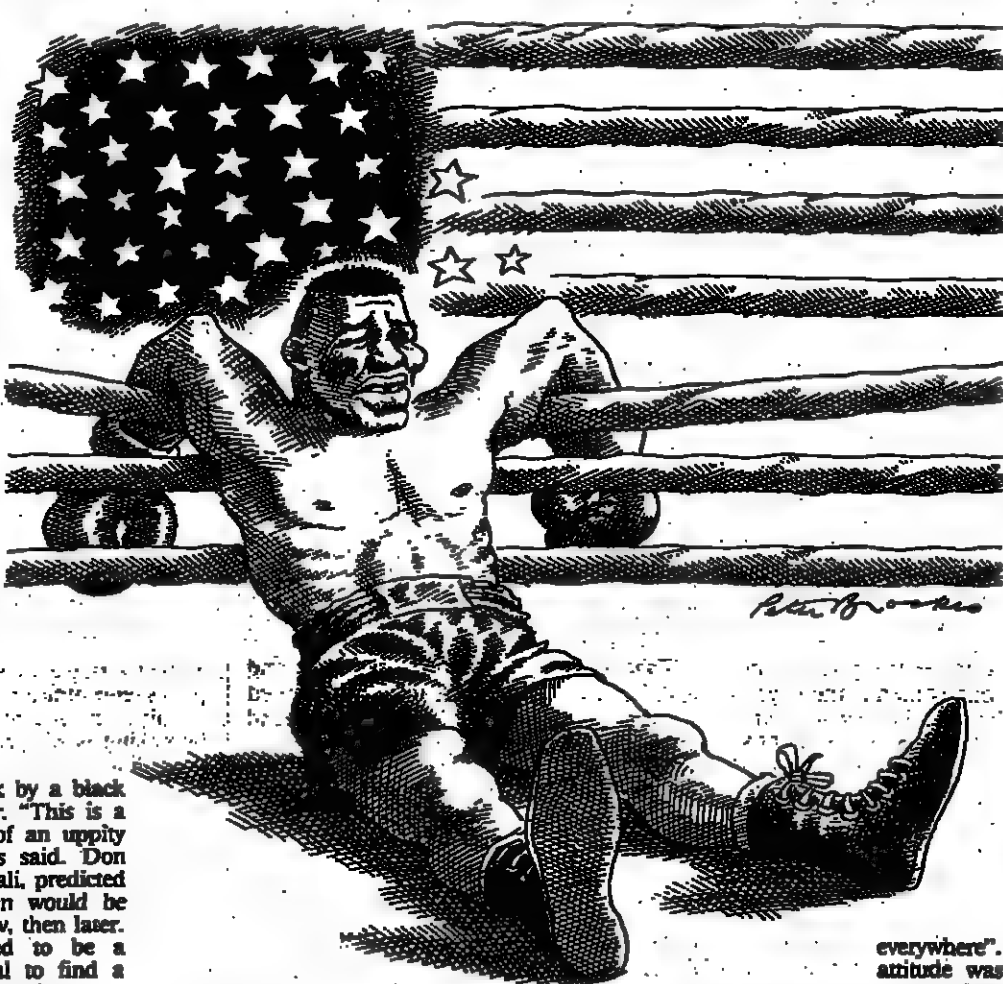
has a very important potential role in protecting human rights. That is why the government should (but will not) allow Parliament to exercise its legislative powers to give effect to the European Convention, and to have a select committee on human rights, and to pass specific measures strengthening equal treatment without discrimination, public access to information, and personal privacy.

Where fundamental human rights are at stake, it is the role of the independent judiciary, rather than of the government-dominated Parliament, to determine where state power ends and individual freedom begins. Parliament and government are no substitute for the effective judicial review of public measures and decisions affecting our personal freedom.

Constitutional reform, is not normally a popular issue. People worry more about health, jobs, education, social welfare and public order. But government excesses have created widespread discontent with excessive rule from Whitehall. Ministers may come to regret their contemptuous rejection of a modern, coherent system that secures real democracy, personal liberty and accountable government under the supreme law of the British constitution.

Middle America hits back

Charles Bremner on the moral forces that floored Tyson



one image that stuck with him, it was the look of distaste on the face of the pedantic Mr Fuller as he kept repeating Tyson's celebrated gambit on a message: "I wanna f--- you." And it was not just the exposure of Tyson's obvious hatred of women that upset many blacks. As disturbing as the trial reviewed the climate of misogyny and immorality rampant in "rap" culture, the which young men often crow in degrading language about their violence towards women.

In another telling image from the trial, Tyson explained that he had been instructed by the organisers of the Miss Black America pageant to fondle the young contestants while singing a rap song about his access to "beautiful women everywhere". Something of the attitude was visible outside the court, where a group of black Tyson supporters denounced Ms Washington as a "whore" who had sold out their hero.

When the dust settles, much of black America is bound to harbour a sense of injustice over the destruction of one of the biggest stars the race has produced. As Americans indulged yesterday in their favourite post-match exercise of spotting the victim, there was less crowing from women's groups about victory in the sex wars than a sense of sadness and uneasiness among both blacks and whites.

The Rev Stacy Shields, an elderly black preacher, watched Mike Tyson march down the staircase from Judge Patricia Gifford's courtroom in Indianapolis on Monday night and shook his head. "This is a set-up. The white establishment has won. They were behind that girl and groomed her to destroy him."

One floor beneath him, another gloom was being aired by Greg Garrison, the slick-talking lawyer who had just won the only conviction in America's trilogy of judicial sex dramas of the past six months. Grinning from ear to ear, Mr Garrison pronounced on the lesson to be drawn from his triumph.

For too long, he said, the superstars of the sporting world had been allowed to get away with outrageous behaviour and boast about it to boot. Now, in the name of decency, the respectable citizens of Indianapolis had called a halt. Tyson, the boxing prodigy from the Brooklyn ghetto, was not just being punished for raping a young woman. He was being called to account for the excesses of the culture of celebrity.

Tyson also suffered from another burden in Indianapolis. He paid for the way he incarnates the figure of the young black predator, a figure which, thanks to an explosion of street crime, has come to haunt the psyche of mainstream America.

In its wider dimension, the fall of Iron Mike is both a racial fable and a morality tale. Middle America, the heartlands of grain silos and early bed-times, extracted revenge on the wild-living promiscuity of the new heroes from the coasts. In the old days, long before anyone invented the term "role model", Joe Louis, Jack Dempsey, Cassius Clay and those other boxing titans could be vicious in the ring but were graceful outside it. Their fans believed them to be gentlemen. In an age that venerates Terminators and other killers, Tyson, the lipping boy wonder, could be worshipped for his brutality alone.

However, as much as Mr Garrison and the two non-white jurors

in Indianapolis dismissed race as a part of their thinking, the blackness of Tyson and his accuser were a constant theme in the courtroom. On its most favourable side, the trial was a sign of great social progress. Not long ago, it would have been unthinkable in Indiana, the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan, that any woman, let alone a black one, would have been taken seriously if she told police a man had forced her to have sex when she visited his hotel bedroom at 2am.

But a large number of black people and many whites prefer to subscribe to the darker explanation, the one put forward by Judge Clarence Thomas, the Supreme Court nominee who was accused of lewd talk by a black woman last October. "This is a high-tech lynching of an angry black," Mr Thomas said. "Don King, Tyson's svengali, predicted all along that Tyson would be 'lynched'. If not now, then later. One does not need to be a bleeding-heart liberal to find a little truth in the hyperbole."

Was it race as well as class and power that let William Kennedy Smith walk free in Palm Beach, many blacks ask, while a white court in Indianapolis was ready to believe the worst of a black man in similar circumstances? On the face of it, the answer is no. The Palm Beach accuser was a 30-year-old with a troubled background and a shaky story, and Dr Kennedy Smith delivered a scathing account of himself. In Indianapolis, the victim was a teenage Sunday school teacher and her

attacker a man who freely told the court that a crude demand for sex was one of his standard pick-up lines.

But everyone is aware that almost all of those loose-living or felonious sports stars mentioned by Mr Garrison are black. Black Americans were highly uncomfortable watching the all-white teams of lawyers on both sides dissect the culture and tribal behaviour of Tyson under the eyes of a blonde woman judge and a mainly white and male jury.

Tyson's brutal image was magnified not just by the prosecutors, but even more damagingly by his own lawyer, Vincent Fuller, the grey-haired senior partner in one of Washington's most distinguished firms, could not have adapted a worse strategy than he did in deciding to paint Tyson as a man with such a reputation for bestial conduct with women that Desiree Washington could have had no illusion as to her fate when she went out with him.

One juror said that if there was



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

The last thing you want a restaurant to do for you is open up a can of worms. When eating out, you do not require any new complications. You will have quite enough on your plate already, because apart from having to decide what it is you are going to have on your plate, and whether it is going to be quite enough and, furthermore, what it is you are going to have on the plate beside that — a slice, a roll, a crispbread, white, beige, granary, something with fashionable bits in, and, if so, which bits, olive, walnut, fieldmouse? — and what to have in the glass beside your plate, and furthermore, these days, what you are going to have in the glass beside that — still, fizzy, French, Highland, Malvern, tap? apart from all this, I say, there is more than enough to occupy two fraught hours of anyone's bewilderment without having to take on board some fat new codicil to the decision-making process.

There is, for example, rare, medium, charred, there is on or off the bone, there is grated parmesan or not, there is black pepper or not, there are a dozen different coffees, as many different moustaches... and all this ceaselessly bearing down on a brain which began taking heavy punishment the instant it stepped into the place and began to wonder whether or not to check its hat, and, if so, whether to do it before addressing the decision as to

which of the 30 tables it wanted to sit at. Who, given all this, would also wish to be faced with deciding how he wanted his lunch killed?

I raise this only because, on Sunday, it was raised for me: to the thinnest of levels, admittedly, but I know a wedge-end when I see one. I had taken my daughter to Gee's, possibly our favourite Oxford restaurant until Sunday came along to slot that "possibly" in, and, having got past the stuff with the hat and the table, we were wrestling with the menu's options, when I said, "I think I'll start with the tuna, but why does it say 'fine-caught' in brackets?"

And Victoria rolled her eyes and said, "Because it's more humane than netting, of course. Besides which, dolphins get caught in tuna nets. Would you want to eat a dolphin?" She had me there. It has long been a rule of mine never to eat anything smarter than I am. Moreover, trained dolphins, I recalled, were rumoured to have fought for the CIA in Vietnam. You would not want to eat an old soldier.

"The fact remains," I said, "that the restaurant is offering me something which they advertise as having been dragged around by its lip. Humane or not, it would never have occurred to me to think about it, had they not brought it up. I shall start with the prawns."

"I wonder how they kill prawns?" said Victoria. "Swat them?"

"Prawns are not killed," I said. "They just die."

"Slowly?" "I don't know," I said, "the menu doesn't specify. Mind you, since it describes them as King Prawns I suppose it's on the cards that they were individually banded with a silken rope. I shall have the lettuce instead. The suffering undergone by pasta must be negligible. And after that I'll have the glazed breast of duck."

"I think it ought to say how they killed the duck," said Victoria. "I mean, did they bring it down with a clean shot, or did they just wing it so's the dog could have a bit of fun finishing it off? Or was it the sort they corner in farmyards and strangle? No wonder it's glazed."

"Stop this," I said. "I know where it's going. Youthful sarcasm and I are old friends. Any minute now, we shall be in the middle of the one about political rectitude as viewed by the middle-aged ostrich. Do not get me wrong: I am perfectly happy to eat a friend of the earth who has been bumped off by typically acceptable means, but I don't see why I have to have it rammed down my throat."

"As it were. How about the rib of beef? Who knows, we might find out that it was sent off by El Cordobes after putting up a damned good show. It may have gone the way it would have chosen. You'd like that."

I looked at the waiter. "You see what you've started," I said.

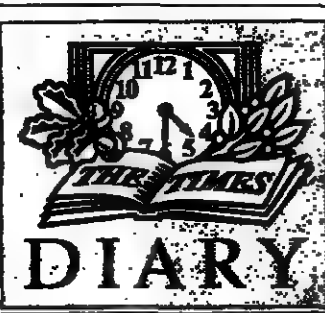
A fortune in those fatwas

AS Salman Rushdie approaches the third anniversary of the fatwa against him, it was claimed yesterday that sales of *The Satanic Verses* have topped \$65 million, making a millionaire not only of the author but of several of his closest associates. In by far the most serious analysis to date of where the money has gone, the journalist Lewis Chester claims that both Gillon Aitken, Rushdie's London agent, and Andrew Wylie, his New York agent, have made \$1 million apiece since Rushdie went into hiding.

The figures appear in an article in next month's *Esquire* magazine in which Chester claims that Rushdie has made about \$6 million from royalties. Aitken yesterday would not deny or confirm that the book had made him a millionaire. "I never discuss that side of the business. The book has sold well and we have made a commission. That is what we are in business for. If a book is on top of the bestseller list, then of course agents will do well."

The English language version, published by Viking Penguin, has sold just over one million copies, generating about £13 million. Non-English language versions of the book have generated another £52 million, according to Chester. Most of these overseas deals have been negotiated by Aitken.

But though foreign publishers have prospered on the back of the book, Penguin has not. Its net profits on American and British sales are about £2 million, which, when set against the £3 million the publisher spent on security at its premises, turns into a loss. Rushdie's profits have suffered no such diminution. According to Chester the Metropolitan Police



has spent more than £1 million a year on protection (half on Special Branch salaries). Rushdie's speech to *The Times* through his solicitor yesterday, said he has contributed £250,000 to cover his living expenses and accommodation while in hiding. The taxpayer, meanwhile, has picked up a bill of nearly £3 million.

● The Queen went missing at Monday night's royal gala at Covent Garden. As the orchestra under Bernard Haitink struck up the national anthem the audience rose, expecting the entry of the principal guest. The royal party appeared but without the Queen. The pit, it seems, had forgotten the royal fanfare, the pre-arranged signal for the Queen's entry. The audience sat down, the fanfare was played, the orchestra launched into the anthem for a second time, the audience again arose, and this time the Queen appeared. The error could not mar a triumphant evening.

Seconds out

FIRST there was Brando in *On the Waterfront*, then Stallone as Rocky, but who will play the starring role in the inevitable *Tyson, The Movie*? Perhaps one of the many opponents who were never able to beat Mike Tyson in the

ring might fancy the opportunity to play at being the champ.

The name of our own Frank Bruno, with his wealth of panoply experience, comes to mind, while Tyson's ex-wife, the actress Robin Givens, is ideally suited to play herself. Norman Mailer, that great fight fan, has already been suggested as the screenwriter.

Such suggestions do not go down well with the Tyson camp. Jose Torres, close friend and author of the official Tyson biography, claims to be too upset even to talk about a film. "At the moment he is not too warm about any such suggestion," says his New York attorney Carl De Santis. "He feels very badly about the verdict."

Heavenly profits

THE Scots Kirk in Paris is due to become a heap of rubble later this year, but will rise phoenix-like from the ashes. Canny to the last, the Church of Scotland, which has sold its prime site in the Rue Baynard, just off the Champs-Élysées, has bagged the first three



floors of the office block which will take the church's place.

The Rev Bruce Robertson is looking forward to the demolition. "It's something I have been work-

ing for ever since I arrived ten years ago," he says. "The church was never finished." The lower floors of the new building will become the manse, the church and a church hall. "We get everything free and our partners get all the airspace they can negotiate with the planners to build upwards. No one will be sad to see it go."

Bob's job lot

IT IS the best free show in town. Sotheby's preview gallery in Conduit Street is displaying the contents of Robert Maxwell's penthouse. No appointment is necessary and the curious are walking in off the street to snigger at some fine examples of bad taste.

"Well, I never," tutted one woman as she turned down the covers of Maxwell's double bed. Another giggled over lot 311, an autographed *Mirror* front page declaring: "To be a saint, you first have to be a sinner." Maxwell at least got half way there.

Further up New Bond Street, at Phillips, a calmer air prevailed. While on Friday Sotheby's is selling its Maxwelliana, down to the wooden coat hangers stolen from swanky New York hotels, the other auction house will be auctioning a collection of fine silver. "Robert who?" asked the Phillips receptionist, frostily.

● Who gives a XXXX for Australian beer? Certainly not the judges in the 1992 Brewing Industry International Awards. To add insult to injury, the trophy for the best lager in the world has been bestowed upon something called Kivi Lager from New Zealand. Australian drinkers yesterday predicted the award would strain antipodean diplomatic relations. "It is like telling the Scots that the best whisky comes from England," said one.



VICTORY BY DEFAULT?

George Bush formally launches his campaign for re-election today, better placed to win than poll ratings blighted by recession suggest. He may not inspire great enthusiasm, but he has no credible challenger.

Mr Bush should be in deep trouble, as Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter were in comparable circumstances in 1976 and 1980. The long-predicted recovery failed to appear in the autumn and the American economy has been sluggish. This has provoked a familiar bout of American introspection and pessimism. Two-thirds of voters think the country is heading in the wrong direction. With the Cold War over, the American public appears preoccupied with domestic concerns. Voters' dissatisfaction with the president's domestic performance has led to a sharp fall in his approval rating.

Mr Bush is still well-placed because past successes, mainly in foreign policy, have deterred potentially strong opponents. Pat Buchanan, his main challenger for renomination as Republican candidate, is more of an irritant than a threat. His message of economic and political nationalism has struck a chord with many conservative Republicans dissatisfied with Mr Bush's reversal of his "no new taxes" pledge. New Hampshire, which holds its primary election next Tuesday, is one of the best states for Mr Buchanan because of its conservative tradition and its deep economic recession. While Mr Buchanan may do well at this first test, it is hard to see him sustaining his appeal in other states.

Mr Bush's biggest advantage is the disarray of the Democrats. None of the five candidates has looked a credible nominee. Governor Bill Clinton, the early frontrunner, has fallen back after allegations of infidelity and draft-dodging. In Monday night's precinct caucuses in Iowa, Mr Clinton slipped into third place just behind Paul Tsongas. (First place, inevitably, went to the local boy, Tom Harkin.) The latest polls show the two neck-and-neck in New Hampshire.

If there is no clear Democratic victor from New Hampshire, others may be tempted into the race. Of these only a handful, such as Mario Cuomo, governor of New York, and Richard Gephardt, the House majority leader, are sufficiently well known or have the money to mount a late campaign. But none yet looks a serious nationwide challenger to Mr Bush.

After his two recent illnesses, Mr Bush has to demonstrate his physical stamina. Aged 68 this June, there is at least a chance he will not endure another full term. His decision to keep Vice-President Dan Quayle on the ticket deserves more than routine attention. Mr Quayle has been enjoying a favourable reassessment in the American press, partly a result of his own improved performance. In London over the past two days, Mr Quayle has impressed normally cynical British observers of the American political scene. He might not be an obvious first choice as president, but he would be no less acceptable a stand-in than Gerald Ford proved to be.

The Bush/Quayle ticket still looks the most plausible for the next four years. But Mr Bush remains a president with low goals and minimal achievements at home. He is a manager, not always successful, of his country's problems - rather than a leader pointing a new direction and inspiring the nation. His State of the Union message two weeks ago satisfied few.

His "strategy" rests on a mixture of blaming his administration's shortcomings on the intransigence of a Congress dominated by his political opponents and hoping that the economy will pick up by November. In other words, it is the strategy of all modern American presidents apart from Ronald Reagan. With the world facing its most optimistic realignment of power since the second world war, and with America able to take great credit for this, that country owes the world a more stimulating election campaign than is at present on offer.

JUSTICE DENIED

The criminal law on fraud went beyond breaking point yesterday and snapped. Mr Justice Henry stopped the trial of two defendants in the latest case arising from the Guinness takeover, on the ground that one of them was unfit to withstand further courtroom stress. Roger Seelig, a former merchant banker, "might do something irrevocable" to himself if the case continued, the judge said.

If those accused of fraud are to continue to receive a fair trial, and if the deterrent to fraud is to continue to be the prospect of public trial and punishment, then yesterday's collapse brings the system into jeopardy. Since the Roskill enquiry in 1986 stressed the difficulties of major fraud cases and recommended that in place of a jury two expert lay assessors should try such cases with a judge, some such breakdown as occurred yesterday has been expected. But the exact circumstances draw attention to a new hazard not previously experienced: the mental pressure on a defendant, such as Roger Seelig, not on legal aid but unwilling or unable to afford the huge costs of these trials, and therefore exercising his right to conduct his own defence.

In 1990 the same judge watched an earlier case arising from the same circumstances - known as "Guinness I" as distinct from yesterday's "Guinness II" - come near to collapse because of the strain on the jury. That case lasted 112 days and finished one juror short. This series of prosecutions is expected to go into two more stages before it is complete. Not long ago the longest fraud trial ever, over the Britannia Park development, ended after 16 months with a total cost of £3 million. Other recent fraud trials such as the Barlow Clowes and County NatWest cases have lasted several months.

The Roskill report greatly improved the criminal law on fraud and led directly to the setting up of the Serious Fraud Office. What is increasingly clear is that the government made a mistake in implementing only part of the report. If the SFO was more likely to

bring long and complex fraud cases to trial, the court system itself had to be adapted. What happened at Southwark Crown Court yesterday may be only obliquely relevant to the point that most concerned the Roskill enquiry, the ability of a jury to digest months of technical evidence. But the jury discharged yesterday had been sitting since September. If the Serious Fraud Office decides to retry Mr Seelig, yet another jury would have to be empanelled for further months of service.

That daunting prospect explains and justifies Mr Justice Henry's exasperated remark: "...we must find a cheaper and quicker way to deal with serious fraud trials". It was likely, he went on, that a solution would have to be radical rather than "just tinkering". Clearly he does not think that the peculiar circumstances of this case - where Mr Seelig's mental health was obviously affecting his ability to defend himself - prevent the drawing of a more general conclusion. In the matter of conducting major fraud trials with a jury, Mr Justice Henry is indeed himself an expert witness.

The Department of Trade and Industry is sufficiently concerned about the strain on the jury system to have asked the present royal commission on criminal justice to look once more at the Roskill recommendations. As well as urging once more the replacement of juries by expert assessors, the commission would do well to dig deeper into the American way of combating fraud.

There, a more flexible range of offences and penalties opens the way to the sort of plea-bargaining that often sees a culprit prepared to submit to punishment without the need for a lengthy trial. The Securities and Exchange Commission has a quasi-judicial power to impose large financial levies - which are not technically fines - that offer an alternative remedy for serious fraud. Such flexibility is urgently needed in Britain. After yesterday's outcome the royal commission cannot leave the procedures for dealing with fraud as they stand. They are fair to nobody.

INTO HOT WATER

The average Briton spends a total of five days a year in the bath. This statistic is published today by one of the country's big five builders' merchants. So it must be true. The survey records that a quarter of its sample drank alcohol in their baths, nearly two-thirds read there and somewhat smaller fractions washed the dog, clipped their toenails, listened to music, made love, talked on the telephone, kept plants, drank coffee and went in for other abstruse idiosyncrasies. Less popular supplementary bath-time activities included washing pet rabbits and Persian cats, duck racing, and calculating the bank balance. The ratio varies regionally. But most Britons take a bath for up to half an hour several times a week, averaging about ten minutes a day in the warm water.

If everybody averaged everything that he or she is alleged to do by such surveys, there would be no time left for answering pollsters' questions. But even if the British bathing survey is as liable to sampling error and to frivolous replies as all polls, it suggests a habit shift. The folklore, at any rate among foreigners, is that the British are reluctant and infrequent bathers. They are bothered by bids and use bath-tubs, when they have them, to keep cool. In a Scotch wash is performed by putting dirty clothes in a bath with soap and water, and bouncing up and down on top of them. The Romans introduced regular bathing to Britain. But once they left, it took the natives more than 15 centuries to reinvent the habit.

English proverbs take a deprecatory line on baths. Wash your hands often, your feet

seldom, and your head never. They who bathe in May will soon be laid in clay. Man does not live by soap alone and hygiene, or even health, is not much good unless you can take a healthy view of it - or better still treat it with healthy indifference. To save energy in the last war, Britons were encouraged to paint a pillowcase line nine inches high round the inside of their baths, above which they should not fill them. The king insisted that the line be drawn in all the palace baths. This produced the most notoriously impossible request from an American magazine's newsdesk: "Urgently need for next edition picture of king in bath. Rear view will do."

It is therefore good news, and not just for the neighbours, that the British are spending more time in baths. The bath is a seat of relaxation and creativity at the end of a hard day's labour. Winston Churchill had his best ideas in the bath and received Franklin Roosevelt there. "We have no secrets from the American president," he declared, clad only in a cigar. Archimedes discovered in his bath the law that his body, and by extension any body, displaced its own bulk of water when immersed. He had been puzzling how to assay whether the gold of his king's crown had been alloyed with silver. When he stepped into his bath, full to the brim, it slopped over the edge, and... eureka!

The shower is American, bracing but transient. The bath is philosophical and wallowing. The highest response to the poll was that 68 per cent said that they dream in the bath. It seems that Britons are becoming more relaxed and civilised as well as cleaner.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

David Plowright's departure from Granada Television

From Professor Michael Tracey

Sir, The forced resignation of David Plowright from Granada Television (report, February 4) is an appalling error of judgment, a slight to a man who has done much to provide Britain with pleasure, enlightenment and culture. Plowright is recognised by many inside and outside the UK as having masterminded the creation and success of one of the world's most important broadcasting organisations, and the circumstances of his departure are one more strand of evidence as to the crisis of British television.

I write from within a television culture in which those who forced Plowright out would be very much at home: television as a commodity, TV stations as objects to be bought and sold, little or no commitment to excellence of standards, rank mediocrity, no strategic sense, an obsession with the bottom line and thus an obsession with the ratings. And the mediocrity of the television reflects the mediocrity of the society in which it exists.

British television is littered with the discarded bodies of programme-makers who had commitment, passion, belief and real creativity in their work. David Plowright is the latest

victim. The accountants, or in this case the caterer, took over.

I would have thought it a useful aphorism for the governance of human affairs that the purser should not navigate the ship and the catering manager should be let nowhere near the soup.

Yours sincerely (and in exile),

MICHAEL TRACEY (Director), University of Colorado at Boulder, Center for Mass Media Research, Macky 20, Campus Box 287, Boulder, Colorado 80309 0287, USA.

From Mr John Chittock

Sir, Over the last 40 years, we have witnessed the dramatic decline of the British engineering and electronics industry, to the point that we are now a country that serves rather than produces.

In a lecture organised by the Department of Trade and Industry this week, Mr Aldo Morita, chairman of Sony Corporation, said:

Here in the UK I am told some manufacturers are led by chief executives who do not understand the engineering that goes into their own products... many UK corporations are headed by chartered accountants. This strikes me as very curious.

Engineering and manufacturing

BBC as centre of excellence in a multi-channel age

From Lord Thomson of Monifieth and Mrs Jocelyn Hay

Sir, We support the plea by Lord Briggs and his colleagues (letter, February 7) for a commitment by the party leaders to provide the BBC, in its new charter in 1996, with the means to preserve the diversity and character of its programming.

Quality in the commercially funded half of British broadcasting is clearly under pressure from the financial provisions of the new Broadcasting Act (report, February 4). The removal of Mr David Plowright as chairman of Granada TV is evidence of that danger, making it all the more vital that the BBC of the future should be enabled to maintain its full public service broadcasting remit.

The BBC has set up a series of working parties to consider its own future structure and functions. In an organisation as big as the BBC no doubt there is room for economy in the use of scarce resources and for reducing bureaucracy. But it would be gravely damaging to the interests of the viewer and listener if the BBC were to seek to convert itself into the currently fashionable concept of a publisher-contractor. The BBC must remain a major centre of excellence by making its own programmes in its own studios.

We are therefore concerned that the results of the BBC's internal review, which is being conducted in private, may pre-empt proper discussion of these important issues. Whatever government emerges from the general election should immediately set up a committee of enquiry into the future of the BBC.

Unlike the Peacock committee, its terms of reference should concentrate on the best way to provide the public funding necessary to maintain the range and quality of the BBC's services.

Television and radio are today probably the biggest single influence on the character of the society in which we live. The BBC's distinctive role and responsibility become more, not less, significant in an age of multi-channel satellites and cable. Its future deserves the widest public debate.

Yours sincerely, GEORGE THOMSON (Patron), JOCELYN HAY (Chairman), The Voice of the Listener and Viewer, 101 Kings Drive, Gravesend, Kent.

From Mr N. Leonard Alderson

Sir, Asa Briggs and his colleagues write that "all around the world the BBC is synonymous with high-quality programmes". As an Englishman who has lived abroad for most of the last 40 years, and who never travels without his short-wave radio, I can attest to this statement, so far as BBC World Service radio is concerned.

Unfortunately, the worldwide reputation of the BBC has been sullied in the past year with the introduction of BBC World Service television. Apart from an excellent evening news programme, peak viewing times each day are filled with what strike me as excruciatingly unfunny comedy or quiz shows and soaps of mind-numbing banality.

A notable example of missed opportunity occurred last week,

today, broadcast television tomorrow. Would the board of Granada (and the Independent Television Commission) care to take note?

Yours faithfully, JOHN CHITTOCK, 37 Gower Street, WC1.

From the Chairman of the Directors Guild of Great Britain

Sir, This organisation represents over 1,200 directors, many of whom have worked, over the years, for Granada Television. We view the recent ruthless and cynical action over David Plowright with dismay. He is one of the few executives whose whole life has been devoted to public service broadcasting. This is, as Mr Plowright has shown, entirely compatible with making a fair profit.

Apparently, a fair profit is not enough for those who have so unceremoniously got rid of him. Granada Television, indeed the whole industry, is the poorer for his departure.

Yours faithfully, JAMES CELLAN JONES, Chairman, The Directors Guild of Great Britain, Suffolk House, 108 Whitfield Place, W1.

Short arm of law on unpaid bills

From the Chairman of the Bar Council

Sir, Those of your readers who are solicitors and barristers will have been bemused to see Mr Alistair Sampson's confident assumption (letter, February 5) that one could count on the support of all three main parties for legislation entitling the small businessman to interest on bills outstanding for more than 60 days.

They will also have been astonished to see the under secretary of state for employment (letter, February 7) proclaiming the need for industry to change its own payment practices, reassuring them that the government is actively encouraging this process and claiming to recognise that "the public sector should set an example".

They know that the government is one of the worst offenders, seeking to defend a system which is as indefensible as it is dishonourable.

The effect of regulations made by the under secretary of state's colleague, the Lord Chancellor, is that a solicitor or barrister acting for a legally-aided client in a civil dispute, and who has actually done the work, has to wait 18 months to be paid anything, and can then claim only 54 per cent (paid in depreciated currency and without interest).

Common morality and elementary justice demand that no one should be expected by the government to wait months and indeed years to be paid for the work he has done. Such treatment would be bad enough if suffered at the hands of some private enterprise, suffered at the hands of the state, it is an outrage.

The Bar has always recognised its professional obligation to act for legally-aided clients, who are often the most underprivileged and defenceless members of society, even though this typically means working for fees substantially lower than those which can be commanded in the private sector. This is an absolutely fundamental obligation, voluntarily assumed by the Bar in the public interest. The least which the profession is entitled to ask in return is that the public purse should pay promptly.

As the under secretary of state says, the public sector should set an example. That process could usefully be set in train by remedying a long-standing grievance which ultimately threatens the proper and efficient administration of justice.

Yours faithfully, CARETH WILLIAMS, Chairman, The General Council of the Bar, 3 Bedford Row, WC1.

From Mr David H. Walton

Sir, Mr Sampson has revived yet again the old idea of charging recalcitrant debtors with interest on overdue accounts. The idea may seem attractive; but, as one who has been in credit control in smaller companies, I believe it to be a non-starter.

The principal beneficiaries would be the big companies, who are already the bad payers, who would use their muscle to collect the interest from small hard-pressed customers. The small supplier companies would still be at the mercy of the big, often cash-rich corporations who pay at 90-plus days and take their business away upon even the slightest hint of requesting proper terms.

There is a further drawback. The sums involved are often not worth the efforts of calculation and collection, but give slow payers yet one more item in the account to query and haggle over, thereby extending the repayment of the proper debt.

Until the big corporation boards develop a proper morality towards their creditors, as is found in Japan, the small firms will continue to be cheap sources of finance. As the old song might have said, "It's the rich who get the money, it's the poor who get the blame".

Yours truly, DAVID H. WALTON, 10 St Guthlac's Close, Crowland, Lincolnshire, February 5.

Favoured occupations

From Professor John Radford

Sir, Mr Schafer asks (letter, February 7) which occupations are held in high esteem.

In surveys which I did in the mid-1980s among sixth-form students and undergraduates, accountancy came high for prestige and opportunities for advancement, but low for job satisfaction. Architecture, Mr Schafer's own profession, came quite high for all these and for responsibility. There was a similar pattern for subjects at degree level, the basis of professional training.

One occupation, however, and one subject of study, invariably came top whatever the criterion: medicine.

Yours faithfully, JOHN RADFORD (Chartered psychologist), 38 Cephas Avenue, E1.

From Mr Tom Harman Smith

Sir, Since we dentists have dropped the suffix "surgeon", and started to care for our patients as well as their teeth, I suggest that dentistry has become an occupation that can be honoured by the public more than in the past.

Yours faithfully, TOM HARMAN SMITH, 2 Ravensdale Avenue, North Finchley, N12.

Notices of coding

From the Director of Operations, Inland Revenue

Sir, Mr Michael Banister (letter, February 4) asks why we issue notices of coding in January and February for the new tax year before the Chancellor announces the levels of tax allowances for that year.

The answer is that we have to review around 29 million tax records each year to make sure that every employee has a code number for the start of the new tax year on April 6. We try to ensure that each code reflects the latest information which we have about an individual's circumstances, so that as far as possible we collect the right amount of tax.

We need to tell employers about code changes in time for them to make the necessary adjustments to their payroll systems. All this takes time, and we would not be able to get revised codes in place for April 6 if we were to postpone our review until after the Budget.

For the vast majority of taxpayers the Budget changes can then be put into effect by employers without the issue of new notices of coding. In a typical year we issue notices of coding to fewer than 15 per cent of employees following the Budget.

Yours faithfully, K. V. DEACON, Director of Operations, Inland Revenue, Somerset House, WC2, February 6.

From Mr J. K. Dobson

Sir, The huge waste of paper and postage referred to by Mr Banister is but the tip of the iceberg. As the employer of a nanny, in the next few weeks I expect HM Collector of Taxes to send me, once again, a complete set of stationery for the fiscal year 1992-3 with which to administer her PAYE and National Insurance contributions. This will be used for April and perhaps May, when it will be replaced by another complete set.

In addition to the apparent waste of paper and postage, it would be interesting to know the cost to the taxpayer of the administrative effort.

Yours faithfully, JAMES DOBSON, Auchinclea, Torwoodhill Road, Rhu, Dunbartonshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.

Price paid in Ulster

From Sir William van Straubensee

Sir, The political situation in Ireland, north and south, seems to be at a moment of pause. In the north, despite the best efforts of one of the most remarkable of our secretaries of state, political talks are in abeyance. In the south, a new prime minister has yet to set his stamp on government.

It may therefore be the appropriate moment to ask a simple question: "What exactly are we in the United Kingdom getting out of the Anglo-Irish Agreement?"

It is easy to see how the agreement is valued by the south. We in the United Kingdom have given to a foreign country a special status in relation to our internal affairs. Many, like myself, who had considerable reservations about this at the time, went along with it on the basis of supporting ministers doing one of the most thankless tasks in government. We felt that if those ministers thought the move was right then they should be supported. My understanding, however, always was that one of the crucial consequences from our point of view would be greatly improved cross-border security.

Now I appreciate that security is a subject which cannot easily be discussed in public. Intelligence gathering, for example, by its very nature must remain murky as a recent trial in Northern Ireland has shown us. Furthermore, there is no doubt validity in the point that what we outsiders do not hear about is the

number of incidents which are foiled. All we know of are those which succeed.

But, that said, it would I think be a bold man who would assert that cross-border security had greatly improved since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Politically, the aspirations of the republic over part of the United Kingdom remain expressed in their constitution as before. One suspects that the constitution cannot be changed because of uncertainty of obtaining the necessary majority to do so.

At least, therefore, so far as the IRA is concerned, the south remains a safe haven for terrorists, just as in this country there must perform be a significant number of homes which Irish terrorists can use safely as a base.

The price we paid for the Anglo-Irish Agreement was to alienate a very large number of Unionists. By this I am not referring to the political leadership, of whom most of us have long since despaired. I am rather thinking of the moderate middle-of-the-way opinion in Northern Ireland which argues, with some justification, that if any other part of the United Kingdom had been involved we should never have agreed to a treaty of this sort.

It seems therefore the right moment to ask the question. It might even be the right moment to renegotiate the treaty.

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM VAN STRAUBENSEE, York House, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1, February 7.

New business rate

From the General Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation

Sir, When the Federation of Small Businesses complains (report, February 5) about the new uniform business rate and the long delays in getting appeals against assessments heard, they should treat the Department of Environment minister's explanations with some scepticism.

Appeals are in arrears because of inadequate resources in the Valuation Office Agency and in the appeal tribunals. The VOA is strapped for cash and, in an effort to balance its accounts by April 5, 1992, it has to cut spending by £4 million.

It is not only the appeal system for the unified business rate that has been affected. Overtime and the recruitment of temporary staff to get

the council tax off the ground have now been suspended.

The reason for the cut backs? Principally because the DoE has been delaying paying its bills to the agency and has been clawing back money earmarked for the council tax.

If the government handles these appeals so badly, the prospective council-tax payers ought to ask themselves before the next general election what kind of an appeals system we are going to get for the council tax, and when and how will it be administered?

Yours faithfully, CLIVE BROOKE, General Secretary, Inland Revenue Staff Federation, Douglas Houghton House, 231 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1.

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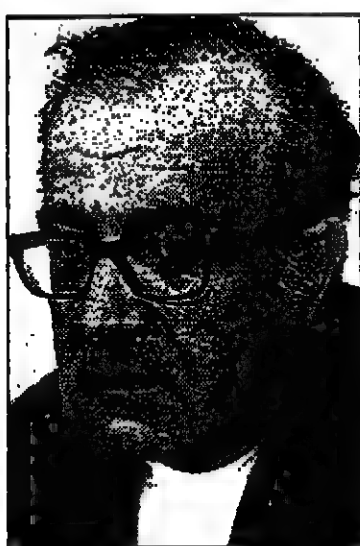
OBITUARIES

LEON CLORE

Leon Clore, the film producer who backed many of the rising generation of British directors in the 1950s, died in London on February 10 aged 73. He was born in Brighton on July 9, 1918.

MORE than once Leon Clore was compared to Diaghilev. At first glance no comparison could seem more unlikely than that between the flamboyant Russian and the determinedly unassuming Englishman. And yet there is no denying that for a whole vital generation of British cinema Clore was a discoverer of talent, a bringer-together of people with complementary gifts as well as being general impresario and patron. Possibly the flowering of film-making which sprang from the Free Cinema movement in the 1950s failed finally to match the splendours of the Ballet Russes, but at least it happened, and the influence of Clore in bringing it about was crucial.

He was a quiet, retiring man, hardly even mentioned in most of the books about post-war British cinema. That is not surprising, since he had little interest in personal publicity and little time for anything he reckoned irrelevant to his work. What he did consider important was the fostering of creative talent, the making of good films, and the preservation of fairness and sanity in areas not noted for such qualities. He would fight to the death for his film-makers: whether it was to secure the McCarthy exile Joseph Losey the freedom to work under his own name again in *Time Without Pity* after years of enforced pseudonymity; or to stand between Lindsay Anderson and the Ford Motor



Clore and, left, Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, directed by Karel Reisz

Company on *Every Day Except Christmas*, which Ford had commissioned, to ensure that it had precisely the length and shape Anderson required. Clore was always rock-like in his determination.

He was born into what was to prove a family of self-made tycoons. The late Charles Clore was an uncle. Leon had not settled on a career when overtaken by the war, but he found a congenial kind of war service on the photographic side of flight reconnaissance in the RAF. After the war he went almost auto-

atically into documentary film-making, which was then still importantly sponsored by the government through the Crown Film Unit. Before the unit was abolished in 1952 Clore had moved on into independent film-making and his first taste of major public success came with *The Conquest of Everest*, a documentary which was shown to the Queen to mark her coronation and subsequently had a successful circuit release.

At this time Clore had his own company called Basic Films and

through this he was responsible for many shorts, usually sponsored by public companies and charities. Through it he met Lindsay Anderson who had happened to edit one of his early films in Clore's cutting rooms and had taken on Clore's future wife Miriam as an editing assistant. In 1955 Anderson agreed to help edit a film sponsored by the British Film Institute, *Lorenza* Mazetti's *Together*, and found there were no facilities to do so until these were obligingly supplied by Clore. From that time Clore was central to

the Free Cinema Movement, launched at the National Film Theatre with a season of that title in 1955. With his long-time left wing sympathies, Clore found young firebrands like Anderson and Karel Reisz congenial, and ended up producing important documentaries by both (*Every Day Except Christmas* and *We are the Lambeth Boys* respectively) as well as employing them in his fast-growing production of television commercials.

After his experience working with Losey on *Time Without Pity* he was ready to go into full-scale feature production, starting modestly with *Virgin Island* (1958), a charming comedy directed by another ex-documentary man, Pat Jackson, and then working with Karel Reisz, with whom he produced *Morgan - A Suitable Case for Treatment* (1966), one of the key films of the Swinging Sixties (directed by Reisz himself, *All Night in Black Stockings* (1969) was an indifferent comedy with Susan George. Clore's experiences in features were at once invigorating and disillusioning and for more than a decade he withdrew completely, until lured back by the idea of producing *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, from the novel by John Fowles, which reunited him with Karel Reisz.

A man of quiet culture and unfailing (if slightly lugubrious) good humour, Leon Clore was one of those rare people in the film business with little ego, happy when he was working with a few close associates and getting his kind of film made.

He is survived by his wife, Miriam, and their son Marius.

APPRECIATIONS

Alec Grant

YOU mentioned (obituary, February 5) Alec's particular interest in the advancement of higher education: and indeed I first met him some 20 years ago when he was the member of the then Inner London Education Authority most expert in the matters of student grants.

But there was another side to his life that no one who visited him could miss. Facing his desk in the Royal Courts of Justice was a large detailed aerial photograph of snow-covered mountain tops: and the principal decoration

in his flat was a series of Wainwright prints.

Alec was at home in the hills, from the Chilterns to the Equator. He was an active member of the UK branch of the Austrian Alpine Club, and was planning a club meet for this month. The hills of the Lake District were his special love: his ashes have now been scattered on a favourite top. And even in recent years, he could put off going for a blood test by referring to the effects of high altitude on the composition of the blood "since I have just returned from Kilimanjaro".

John Bowen

John Parry

AS A professional broadcaster whose career began while still a schoolboy in Rhodesia, entirely thanks to John Parry (obituary, February 7), who taught me all about broadcasting, I was lucky enough to work with and for him during what was probably his heyday in radio.

John Parry was Rhodesia Radio and, without any doubt, the most versatile and most talented broadcaster I have ever known. He could do

anything...he was blessed with the most beautiful voice which he put to the most wonderful use. He was an actor of distinction, a fine newsreader, most knowledgeable about music, an original producer, a presenter of children's programmes and one of the best cricket commentators I have ever heard. Add to this his humour and unfailing humanity and I think it is no hyperbole to say that John Parry was one whose like will not be seen again.

Clive Roslin

THOMAS PARKINSON

Thomas Parkinson, American academic, critic of the Beat movement and poet, died in San Francisco on January 14 aged 71. He was born in San Francisco on February 24, 1920.

THOMAS Francis Parkinson was a professor on the Berkeley campus of the University of California from 1948 until his retirement last year, and as such wielded an enormous influence on generations of students. A Yeats scholar and one of the first academic historians of the Beat poets, he was also a leading participant in the movement known as the San Francisco Renaissance. He was unlucky never to become as widely known as some of the other poets in this movement.

Parkinson received his degree from Berkeley in 1945 after a spell in the United States Army Air Force. He was an assistant professor there from 1948 to 1953 and professor of English from 1960 until last year. He received a Guggenheim fellowship in 1957 and the American Book Award in 1968. He was a distinguished visitor to many universities, including St John's College, Oxford, where in 1984-85 he was senior research fellow.

A reticent man, he was nevertheless the unhappy victim, in 1961, of an attempted assassination. A religious fanatic who claimed that God had ordered him to shoot "commie professors" let loose with a shotgun in his office, wounding Parkinson in the face and killing a colleague.

Parkinson was a most eclectic man, who could ap-

preciate W. B. Yeats - his life-long inspiration - as much as Walt Whitman, whose "redskin" tradition in American poetry, the San Francisco movement sought to continue and authenticate. Both his books on Yeats, *W. B. Yeats, Self Critic* (1951), a study of the early verse, and *W. B. Yeats: The Later Poetry* (1964), are highly thought of. So, equally, is *Poet, Poems, Movements* (1987), for its sympathetic and wide-ranging treatment of so many differing traditions, from Lawrence Ferlinghetti to Robert Lowell.

A *Casebook on the Beat* was not the first book on the Beat movement but it was the first to treat the phenomenon with scholarly seriousness and understanding, and it has exercised considerable influence. A compilation of writings by and about Beat poets, it contains commentaries by the poets themselves, and comments, as Parkinson put it, "pro and con". Parkinson was active in the ecological movement before most people were aware of it, as the essays and poems in *Protect the Earth* (1970) amply demonstrate. As a poet he tended to lack concentration, but largely compensated for this by his burning sincerity and feeling for the telling phrase. He wrote a valuable book on *Hart Crane* and *Yvor Winters: Their Literary Correspondence* (1978). But he will be remembered chiefly as an all-round man: an inspired and inspiring teacher, who always sought to balance literature with the real world.

He is survived by his wife and their two daughters.

ERNEST THORNTON

Ernest Thornton, MBE, former Labour MP for Farnworth and junior minister in the first Wilson government, died on February 5 aged 86. He was born on May 18, 1905.

ERNEST Thornton was the type of Labour MP which no longer exists. He started work on his 13th birthday, learned his politics at socialist Sunday school, was a union official in his twenties and served as mayor of his home town before becoming an MP. He was a small, pipe-smoking figure, an infrequent speaker in the House but a man who worked himself to exhaustion when he entered the government. For many years men and women like Thornton provided the backbone of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Thornton was a cotton man. He was born into the industry in Burnley. His father and mother were both cotton workers and Thornton followed them the day he left Walverden Council School in Nelson. He earned four shillings a week for a 12-hour day for a five-day week. He never had any doubts about his politics and during his teens he was an ardent member of the old Independent Labour Party. After eight years as a weaver he became a costing clerk, having attended the evening classes which he always regarded as his true education. By 1929 he had become a full-time official of the trade union movement which would dominate so much of his life.

He was appointed assistant secretary of the Weavers and Winders Association in Rochdale, the town which was to become his home, and in 1940 he became the union's secretary. In the wider union field he was secretary of the United Textile Factory Workers Association from 1943 to 1953 and president of the Amalgamated Weavers Association from 1960 to 1965. His knowledge of industry was recognised by his membership, from 1943 to 1948, of the Lord President's Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and of the council of the British Cotton Industry Research Association (1948-1953).

He was elected to Rochdale Council during the 1930s and in 1942 he became the youngest mayor at the age of 37. When George Tomlinson, the former education minister who had also begun

work as a cotton weaver, died in 1952, Thornton was a popular choice to succeed him as the MP for Farnworth. He won the by-election comfortably by more than 7,000 votes - a majority which Thornton had more than doubled by the time he fought his last general election.

In the House he was naturally regarded as one of the major authorities on textiles and when Harold Wilson became prime minister in 1964 Thornton was appointed joint parliamentary secretary at the Ministry of Labour. His great achievement was the *Redundancy Payments Bill*, which benefited 785,000 workers after he had piloted it through the Commons.



When the prime minister offered him office again after the 1966 Labour victory Thornton decided that he had had enough of government. He soldiered on as MP until 1970 when he decided that it was time for a younger MP to take his seat.

Thornton will be remembered with gratitude in Hong Kong for his part in restricting the working hours of women and children. The conditions he saw there horrified him. His dedication to textile workers everywhere produced his successful pleas to the British government to change what was happening in Hong Kong. He was appointed MBE in 1951 and in 1970 was a deputy lieutenant for Manchester Metropolitan County.

He was married, in 1930, to Evelyn Ingham, of Nelson, who died in 1983. They had two sons, one of whom died in infancy.

Fritzi Gordon, international bridge player, died in London on February 8. The official encyclopaedia of bridge gives her year of birth as 1916.

FRITZI Gordon formed part of the most famous - and most tempestuous - women's partnership in the history of bridge. With Rüdiger Markus she won the world mixed teams event in 1962, the Women's World Team Olympiad in 1964 (these being the only two bridge olympiad events Britain has ever won) and the world women's pairs in 1962 and, by a record margin, in 1974. She also won the women's European Championship seven times, had numerous successes in British events and was the second woman to attain the rank of world grandmaster - Marcus being the first.

Born in Vienna of middle-class Jewish parents, Fritzi Gordon became the buyer for a Salzburg department store but moved to Graz on marriage. After the Anschluss she fled with her husband Paul to London.

Among the many Austrian refugees who came to Britain was her brother Hans, a ranking bridge expert, and Dr Paul Stern, a bridge "great" who had returned his Iron Cross to Hitler and was No. 11 on the Nazi hit list. In this company Gordon quickly showed a talent for the game. When war came her husband joined the Pioneer Corps, which exempted her from the curfew imposed on most enemy aliens. This was no small consideration, as by now she was winning regularly at appreciable stakes in clubs such as Crookfords, the Hamilton, and the Lyndhurst, where play often continued late at night.

FRITZI GORDON



When tournament bridge revived after the war she soon began to make her mark but her partnership with the innately-talented Marcus did not begin until 1951. It was owed to the inspiration of Sydney Lee, a physician and leading bridge player who captained the British women's team in that year's European championship. At half-time in their last vital match Britain seemed

headed for defeat so Lee decided on a last throw: he broke up two established partnerships and formed a new combination. Britain won the championship and the new partnership became the most awesome that women's bridge has known, combining exceptional skill with an apparent power to unnerve opponents, not limited to other women.

Marcus, too, had fled the Nazis, yet despite this shared background the two never became friends: as persons, they had in common only their bridge skills and a tigerish appetite for success. Their bickering in bridge post-mortems, which they kept in check when representing Britain, could at other times make the rivalries of actresses and prima donnas seem bland, and although Gordon could not match Marcus's speed and accuracy of analysis, her barbs sometimes struck home. Once Marcus broke an iron rule by passing her partner's forcing bid: disastrously, a slam was missed. In mitigation Marcus pleaded a precedent from the distant past, where a plus score could have been obtained only by passing a similar forcing bid. Gordon was able to remember the hand. "Yes, Rid," she purred. "But on that occasion it was you who made the forcing bid."

Sometimes the two would break up their partnership and not speak to each other for months or longer; but although both could win with other partners (and Marcus continues to do so), they recognised that the true magic worked only when they played together. Their last big tournament was the Monte Carlo Olympiad in 1976.

Gordon's skill at bridge earned her an affluent old age. She is survived by her daughter.

THOMAS TALBOT

Thomas Talbot, CB, QC, who died on February 8 aged 87, was Counsel to the Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords, 1953-77 and assistant counsel for a further five years until his retirement in 1982. He was born on December 21, 1904.

THE most important function of the post of Counsel to the Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords lies in the field of private legislation and it is no secret that the holder can exercise a considerable influence over the form and content of private bills. Tom Talbot set about doing so and made a notable contribution in that regard. He was concerned at the proliferation of powers sought by local authorities and at the unnecessary deviations in the form of clauses aimed at achieving similar effects in different parts of the country. He devoted his energies to trying to achieve a rationalisation of the private statute book.

Thomas George Talbot was the son of Sir George Talbot, the distinguished high court judge. He was called to the bar by the Inner Temple in 1929 and practised until he joined the Scots Guards in 1940. He was invalided out in 1944 after losing part of a leg and then joined the Office of Parliamentary Counsel. There he remained until he became Counsel to the Chairman of Committees.

His first attempt at bringing greater clarity and reason to the private statute book through the 1939 Joint Committee of both Houses on the Promotion of Private Bills was not successful. The joint committee took evidence from Talbot but their recommendations must have disappointed him. Indeed, they reversed decisions already taken by the Chairman of Committees and Chairman of Ways and Means which Talbot had supported.

The Local Government Act 1972 gave Talbot the opportunity to bring some order

into private legislation. The act provided that as from a given date all local authority private acts would be repealed. In consequence it was necessary for local authorities to seek fresh powers from Parliament. The South Glamorgan Bill of 1974-75 was the first of the new local authority bills. It had a slow passage through the Lords with the promoters being required to prove their need for many of those powers they had had previously. Talbot's inclination would have been to be far more restrictive in granting new powers than Parliament eventually was. His efforts to achieve consistency in local authority legislation were however, rewarded with the issue in 1977 of a series of 85 "common clauses" for use in the new local authority bills that were to follow the South Glamorgan Bill.

With his successor as Counsel to the Lord Chairman he played a prominent part, in consultation with a number of parliamentary agents, in settling the form of these clauses. When he retired in 1982 his ambition for a more consistent and less cluttered private statute book was more than half realised.

Talbot was also involved in the lengthy proceedings on whether the Callaghan government's Aircraft and Shipbuilding Bill of 1977 was hybrid. Normally, questions of hybridity are decided by one of the clerks of private bills of the two Houses who act also as examiners. However, because of the importance of this particular examination and the mass of legal argument, counsel to the Speaker and Talbot were both additionally appointed examiners. It is no secret that the examiners' report, a masterly analysis of hybridity, was largely written by Talbot.

Outside the House, Talbot was active in the life of the Inner Temple of which he was made a bencher in 1960. He leaves his widow, Cynthia, and four children.

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Memorial service

Mr Peter Willes
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Peter Willes was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. The Rev Donald Reeves officiated.

Mr John Stride gave a reading and Mr Harold Pinter, Mr Hugh Whitmore and Miss Dorothy Tutin gave addresses. Among other present were:

Mr Dudley Pashley, Mr John Hanson, Mrs Sarah Baily, Lady Hester Goring, Lady Antonia Fraser, Lady Patricia Foster.

Mr John Pashley (editor of programme, Yorkshire Television) with Mrs Pashley, Mr Vernon Lawrence (director of entertainment, Dr Geoff Jervoise (controller, corporate affairs), Mrs Carol Ormerod, Mr Richard Whitely, Mr David Reynolds, Mrs Barbara Hosking, and other past and present members of the Willes family.

Latest wills

Sir Terence Charles Stuart Morrison-Scott, of Fernhurst, West Sussex, Director of the British Museum (Natural History) 1960-68, and formerly of the Science Museum, 1968-80, left estate valued at £14,588 net.

Mr Frank George Griffith Carr, of Blackheath, south-east London, Director of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich 1947-66, left estate valued at £525,383 net.

Martha Barr, of Ardkley, Herefordshire, left estate valued at £199,596 net. She left her entire estate to her trustees for the relief of cancer sufferers.

Patricia Margaret Wright, of Little Hadham, Hertfordshire,

left estate valued at £231,917 net. She left her estate equally between the Hedley Atkins unit at Guy's Hospital, London, and the Friends of Covent Garden.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mr Arthur Battley, of Surfleet, Lincolnshire, £17,781.
Mrs James Rodney Cooper, of Chorley, Lancashire, £549,950.
Mrs Daphne Miranda Cowington, of Grafton, West Sussex, £1,029,076.
Mrs Doris Winifred Dix, of Northampton, £763,782.
Mr John Ruskin Bucknell Lattimer, of Newbold, Derbyshire, £533,957.

Birthdays today

General Sir John Akhurst, 62.
General Sir John Archer, 68.
Professor A.H. Becker, former professor of pharmacy, 72.
Lord Brocket, 40.
Viscount Chandos, 39.
Miss Annette Crosbie, actress, 34.
Mr Howard Davies, controller, Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales, 41.

Sir James Dummer, civil servant, 78.
Dr K.J.R. Edwards, vice-chancellor, Leicester University, 58.
Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fieldhouse, 64.
Mr Stephen Gibbs, former chairman, Turner and Newall, 72.
Lord Granville of Ely, 93.
Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, 82.
Mr Paul Hamlyn, publisher, 66.
Miss Christine Hancock, general-secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 49.
Mr Anthony Howard, political journalist, 58.

Sir Robin Mackworth-Young, Librarian Emeritus to The Queen, 72.
Lord Morison, 61.
Lord Moyra, 69.
Mr John Raisen, former chairman, Shell UK, 63.
Mr Justice Roulger, 60.
Sir Aubrey Trotman-Dickenson, principal, University of Wales College of Cardiff, 66.
Lord Wigoder, QC, 71.
Mr Albert Williams, trades unionist, 65.
Mr Franco Zeffirelli, opera, film and theatrical producer and designer, 69.

FEB 12 ON THIS DAY 1912

Joseph Lister, later Lord Lister (1827-1912) was the founder of antiseptic medicine and a pioneer in preventive medicine. As *The Times* leader put it, "the lives saved through Lister's art are those which would have ended, in the vast majority of cases, in grievous pain". He was one of the twelve original members of the Order of Merit.

LORD LISTER

IN LORD LISTER, whose death we announce this morning, a great man has passed away from the company of the living. If true worth be measured by work accomplished for the benefit of mankind, very few worthier have lived and died.

It is no figure of speech to say that the whole civilized world will feel his loss and reverence his memory, for every part of it has shared in the benefits he conferred on the human race. He may be called the great life-saver. More than ten years ago, as the full memoir we publish on another page reminds us, it was computed that he had then already saved more human lives than all the wars of the nineteenth century had sacrificed; and the record has been steadily rolling up ever since.

It is a most wonderful achievement for one man and not easy to grasp. But there is probably little or no exaggeration in the statement. Nor does the saving of life - with all that it implies, in the relieving of anxiety, the conversion of sorrow into joy, and the enrichment of mankind - cover the whole story.

The lives saved through LISTER's art are those which would have ended, in the vast majority of cases, in grievous pain. He has prevented not less suffering than premature death. How this has been brought about is explained in our memoir. The general public, though familiar with LISTER's name and aware that he

was a great surgeon, has probably but a vague idea of what he actually did. It may be summed up thus: he discovered the principles and established the practice of scientific cleanliness and applied them to surgery. Thus stated, it does not sound much, and indeed the whole thing is now so self-evident, so simple and complete, that we have considerable difficulty in realising the state of ignorance which prevailed when he began his researches.

Into this field of conventional, orthodox practice, with its frightful tale of suffering and death, entered the man of genius, the pioneer. He began, as all the great lights of science have begun, by observing the facts before him. He observed them more closely than his colleagues, and sought to explain them. He noticed the great mortality following operations and injuries in which the skin was broken and the tissues exposed to the air; and in attempting to remedy this prevalent evil, which was emphasised by the expansion of operative surgery due to the introduction of anaesthetics, he was led to search for the cause.

While pursuing the quest with open eyes and alert mind, he learnt of PASTEUR's final proof that the processes of fermentation and putrefaction were caused by the presence and growth of living organisms. This gave him the clue he was looking for.

LISTER was the true type of scientific genius. He had the idea and the capacity to work it out with infinite pains. He saw surgery revolutionised. He saw all the old evils of his youth - the dreadful festering wounds, the gangrene, blood-poisoning, and fever that decimated the hospitals - swept away; he wished to a fraction of what it had been; he saw limbs and lives saved which would formerly have had no chance, and vast new regions of surgery opened up. His dream had come true, and more, and it was his doing.

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Mr Quayle has been embarrassed by the furore over his reported threat to withdraw US troops if Europe did not make concessions on Gatt. He twice denied mak-

Leading article, page 13

counsel for Clowes, said his client would not benefit from the fraud. "For him it is a story of rags to riches, and back to rags," he said in mitigation. Clowes faced civil proceedings involving writs of more than £100 million which would bankrupt him.

Healing visit: The Princess of Wales at the Taj Mahal with a guide yesterday

Before flying from Delhi to Agra, the princess had joined the prince in an extended visit to Sonia Gandhi, the widow of the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, and they are expected to meet her again before leaving India on Saturday.

Addressing the Indo-British Industrialists Forum, the prince praised the economic reforms of the prime minister, P V Narasimha Rao, and predicted that the economy was poised to take a dramatic leap forward.

WORD WATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

24 What's the point in saying more? (4).

25 Saze wants smaller thrower (3,7).

26 A clergyman about to af (4).

27 Circuit ministers -- one 24 and preaches noisily

DOWN

1 A fish out of water oxygen (4).

2 Listening, learned the (4).

3 Stay in Dallas put off of November (3,6,3).

4 In fact mostly a perk for (5).

5 Outstanding one from took up residence (9).

7 Gloomy note struck by (5).

8 Bird — it makes an app
in battle order (10).
11 Clever baseball player
dip (6,6).
13 Being good, girl's climb
secured plant (10).
14 It's serious when bu
accommodate a number
16 Soldiers with ruler, the
are following naturally
21 Cards left at the start —
left of necessity (5).
22 Raised bats to strike sen
23 Measures god (4).

**Concise crossword is on
page 11 of *Life & Times***

11-11-68 11:11 AM 11-11-68 11:11 AM

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

about Labour's folly. David Nicholson (C. Taunton) said something about "availability for work".

Size of molecule: 1m-3.2006h.



©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1992. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at Virginia Street, London E1 9YN, telephone 071-762 5000 and at Knowsley Park Industrial Estate, Killing Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HX, telephone 051-546 2000. Wednesday, February 12, 1992. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

● BUSINESS NEWS 17-23
● FOCUS: EUROPEAN CAR INDUSTRY 24-26
● SPORT 27-32

TODAY IN BUSINESS

COCKTAIL

ALLIED-LYONS

Allied-Lyons, a cocktail of food and drinks businesses, is trying to simplify the mix and to cope with the beer industry after the MMC restructuring
Page 21

COAL SCUTTLE

British Coal has returned to the European Commission with complaints of American coal "dumping"
Page 19

TAKEOFF



Dr Tony Ryan is preparing to launch GPA, the world's largest aircraft leasing group, on the stock market
Page 19

EXPENSIVE

Litigation has to be the most expensive method of settling differences short of warfare, a Lloyd's underwriter said
Page 19

CAMOUFLAGE



Arthur Dunkel has warned countries not to use environmental concerns as an excuse for protectionist policies
Page 22

THE POLINO

US dollar 1.8065 (-0.0205)
German mark 2.8678 (+0.0003)
Exchange index 91.1 (-0.3)

Bank of England official rate (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1964.2 (+5.3)
FT-SE 100 2537.1 (-1.3)
New York Dow Jones 3253.35 (+8.27)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave Closed

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Rate 10 1/4%
3-month interbank 10 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 3 7/8%
30-year bonds 10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York £1.8064
DM2.8684 \$1.8010
Sfr1.2577 \$1.2519
FF12.7733 FF12.4205
Yen228.96 Yen128.90
ECU91.1 ECU82.5
ECU 10/12/25 SDR 10/7/11/14
ECU1 40/24/7 ECU1 25/34/1

London forest market close

GOLD

London fixing: AM \$355.25 pm \$356.00
close \$355.90-356.40 (£197.10-197.80)
New York: COMEX \$355.95-356.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) \$18.75 bbl (\$19.00)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.7 December (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

'Still bumping along the bottom'

Gloomy Bank backs down on recovery

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England has retreated from the optimistic reading of the economy it gave in November to report that the recession has become the longest since the war and that recovery is proving elusive.

Its gloomy reassessment, in the latest *Quarterly Bulletin*, confirmed the picture outlined by Treasury officials last week. The Bank's current view is founded mainly on the lack of consumer confidence at home, but the worsening international environment is seen as important. Although the Bank can still see no sign of a "double-dip" recession in Britain, it is concerned about signs of a decline in expectations.

Instead of the modest recovery it, like Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, had predicted for the second half of 1991, the Bank now says no recovery took place last

year. Until the new year, Mr Lamont and Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank, were still talking of recovery being under way, though difficult to discern. Partial data have subsequently convinced the government that recovery will be weaker and slower to arrive than Mr Lamont forecast in his autumn statement in November.

The economy is now expected to grow about 1 per cent this year, less than half that forecast in the autumn statement, after a decline of 2.5 per cent in 1991, the steepest calendar year drop since the great depression.

The Bank, while confirming that the recession has lasted six quarters, was reluctant to predict precisely when it will end, although its central assumption is that "modest, slow" recovery will come this year. Officials say the economy is "still bumping along the bottom".

The Bank said the Central Statistical Office's leading indicators continue to rise, suggesting that conditions "that in the past accompanied recovery" were again in place. Real incomes and consumption, however, were "essentially flat".

The Bank is particularly concerned about the risk posed by the fall in house prices and its impact on consumer confidence - hence its strong support for Mr Lamont's decision in December to lift stamp duty on houses temporarily.

The Bank indicated that market expectations of an early cut in domestic rates were a misreading of its recent actions. But its message on inflation suggests that core inflation close to an annual 2 per cent is well within grasp, which could give scope for interest rate cuts this year. Despite subdued growth of the money supply, the Bank voiced confidence that Britain does not face the "credit crunch" restraining recovery in America.

The bulletin said the international environment remained tough. The American recovery had faltered, Japanese growth had decelerated rather faster, and the European economies, especially Germany, had also slowed. Against this backdrop, Britain's performance had been "disappointing". The Bank said manufacturing output had continued to decline, after seeming to stabilise last summer, and a firming in service sector output was likely to prove a "false dawn".

Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve Board chairman, told a banking conference in San Antonio, Texas, that the Fed believes the amount of money in the economy after recent cuts in interest rates should be adequate to stimulate growth. He reiterated that the Fed is prepared to ease further if necessary. His remarks prompted a dollar retreat on the foreign exchange markets.

Treasury cheered by producer prices

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury hailed as "excellent news" the latest official data on producer prices, which showed inflation at Britain's factory gates running at an annual 4.5 per cent in January, the lowest increase since mid-1988.

Keen to highlight its success in combating inflation, in the absence of any signs of economic upturn, the Treasury has, in recent months, sought to underline the reduction of underlying inflationary pressure as a key part of the foundations being laid for a sustained and low-inflation recovery.

The Central Statistical Office figures showed the output price of manufactured goods rising 0.7 per cent in Janu-

ary. However, the annual rate slowed to 4.5 per cent from 4.9 per cent in December.

More important, the core rate of increase, which excludes food, drink and tobacco prices, decelerated to an annual 3.1 per cent, the lowest since August 1989. In December, the annual increase was 3.7 per cent.

The official retail price index, due on Friday, is expected to show annual inflation slowing to about 4.3 per cent in January from 4.5 per cent in December.

The producer price data were broadly in line with City expectations and confirmed the widespread view that inflation was not a concern for the government at present.

Ofgas rejects consumer claims

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR James McKinnon, the gas industry regulator, has rejected claims by British Gas that consumers in the South-West of Britain, and large industrial customers, could lose as a consequence of moves to increase competition.

The director general of gas supply said British Gas has

no reason to introduce transmission charges which relate to distance, nor to reduce sales under contracts which allow supplies to be halted at times of peak demand.

"If British Gas does create regional pricing in the tariff sector it will be, in my view, a vindictive step," Sir James

said. He said regional pricing would add to British Gas's costs, and said there would be no profit advantage because the Office of Gas Supply (Ofgas) allowed the company a return on its transmission business as a whole.

Sir James also insisted new suppliers entering the gas market should make gas available under interruptible contracts, ensuring total interruptible volumes did not diminish. Sir James's assault came as he unveiled the Ofgas annual report. The report showed a 130 per cent increase last year, to 918, in the number of serious complaints about British Gas made to Ofgas by the company's customers. North Thames region and South Eastern region continued to occasion the most complaints.

Comment, page 21

Disney to compensate workers

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

EURO Disneyland, the group that is building the Disney theme park outside Paris, has agreed to compensate 40 subcontractors left stranded after they had been refused payment by one of the project's 16 main building contractors. The move has been interpreted as a first step by Euro Disneyland to defuse a dispute that broke out last month when the main contractors claimed an additional Fr850 million to cover cost overruns resulting from extra work carried out. The dispute raised concern that the opening of the £2.2 billion project, scheduled for April 12, might have to be delayed, although Euro Disneyland has always maintained that the opening date was never under threat. Euro Disneyland yesterday took a

partial step in resolving the problems by agreeing to compensate 40 subcontractors that are owed money from the Gabot/Eremco contracting group. A spokesman said the amount could not yet be determined but added it would run into tens of millions of francs. Euro Disneyland does not have any specific obligations towards the subcontractors, but the move is regarded as a gesture to show the company's determination to resolve the conflict with the main contractors.

The spokesman said Euro Disneyland paid Gabot/Eremco for extra work being carried out, but there was a dispute over the amount. He said: "If we did not pay, the subcontractors would go into bankruptcy. We call this blackmail. We could not accept that."

In a statement released yesterday, Euro Disneyland said: "This agreement

bears testimony to Euro Disney's willingness to take into account a difficult and, in some cases, dramatic situation, into which these companies have been plunged because of the default of the group with which they had a contract." The agreement was reached with the help of the Fédération Nationale du Bâtiment, the national building federation, and a local builders' federation. The settlement came after threats by some of the subcontractors to demonstrate at the theme park on the opening day and after calls on the French government to become involved in the matter. However, the resolution of the subcontractors' difficulties does not by itself constitute an end to the dispute with the 16 main contractors about the alleged cost overruns. The spokesman said, however, that progress was being made to resolve that issue.



Safe pair of hands: Lord King, chairman, gave warning that there would have to be further cost cuts

Amstrad plunges to its first loss

BY JONATHAN PERRY

AMSTRAD, the electronics group headed by Alan Sugar, has announced its first loss after suffering a dramatic fall in sales in the second half of last year.

The deficit before tax for the six months to end-December was £15.2 million, compared with a pre-tax profit of £40.1 million for the same period in 1990. Turnover slumped from £326.6 million to £196.1 million as a result of the company's withdrawal from the electronic games market and an oversupply of personal computers. The interim dividend was maintained at 0.4p.

Mr Sugar said that trading conditions remained tough but that the company was seeing signs of a slight recovery in the German market, and that prices in the personal computer market were bottoming out.

"We have no intention of giving up our position in the computer market, and we believe we are weathering the storm in which too many manufacturers were chasing the same recession-affected consumer market," he said.

Mr Sugar said that stock levels were higher than expected, but he was confident that the book value of the stocks would be realised, and that no significant write-downs would be needed in the second half. Last year the company wrote down the value of its unsold computers by £20.4 million.

The company has net cash balances of £40 million and net assets at the half-year end of 54p a share. Mr Sugar said the strong balance sheet combined with a cost-cutting restructuring and the launch of new products meant the group was "laying very good foundations for a recovery in our next financial year". The shares closed up 2p at 28p.

Times, page 20

BA flies above forecasts

BY MARTIN WALLER

BRITISH Airways soared ahead of stock market forecasts in the third quarter. Pre-tax profits in the three months to December 31 rose fivefold to £100 million, sending the shares up 23p to 248p.

Results for the same period of 1990 had been badly affected by the run-up to the Gulf war, said Sir Colin Marshall, the chief executive; airline passenger figures had declined sharply. However, analysts had expected little more than £35 million before tax this time.

In the last nine months of 1991, BA made pre-tax profits of £285 million, down from £340 million. The workforce was cut 11 per cent to just under 49,000, but staff costs rose by 5 per cent because of an 11 per cent pay settlement dating from the start of 1991. Lord King, the chairman, appeared to be preparing employees for further cuts. "We are positioning

ourselves well to take advantage of economic recovery when it happens in our major markets," he said. "Meanwhile, in these uncertain conditions, it is essential to seek further cost savings."

BA made no reference to the much-discussed link with KLM, the Dutch carrier, though earlier indications had been that the two companies had aimed to reach an agreement this week.

Both sides are believed still to be keen on a merger, but talks have become bogged down on the question of the profit shares they would draw from the venture. KLM has said BA wants an 80 per cent share, to reflect the greater cost savings and efficiencies it has achieved; BA is apparently not convinced by the Dutch counter-argument that KLM should take 40 per cent. BA's unexpectedly good financial performance therefore adds weight to its arguments. There has been further dis-

agreement over the livery for a merged group. BA believes its distinctive branding is superior to that of the Dutch airline.

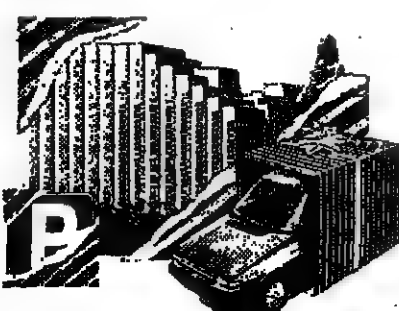
Sir Colin said the last nine months of 1991 saw an operating surplus of £319 million, ahead by 14 per cent. That largely reflected the return to profit after the Gulf war. There was an extraordinary item of £140 million from the sale of the business previously carried out by BA Engine Overhaul.

Turnover for the third quarter was up 6 per cent to £1.51 billion. Passenger numbers fell 3.1 per cent but a better passenger mix brought improved yields, 7 per cent. Lower average fuel prices, together with lower consumption and improved fuel efficiency, produced fuel and oil costs of £136 million, a saving of 28 per cent.

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GPA profits take off again after a record quarter

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

GPA, the world's largest aircraft leasing company, has quickly shrugged off the airline industry's troubles to make a record quarterly profit before its planned international share flotation.

In the three months to end-December, GPA, which is based in Ireland but accounts in dollars, recorded net profits after tax of \$73 million, compared with \$55 million a year earlier, on revenue up 12 per cent to \$584 million. The rise in net profit reflects a recovery in sales of packages of aircraft on operating lease to investors but is partly due to lower bonuses and a lower tax charge.

The autumn recovery reversed a 12 per cent fall in profits in the first six months to leave nine month profits marginally up at \$197 million. Earnings are up from \$1.65 to \$1.69 per share.

Dr Tony Ryan, the chairman said: "Last year was one of the toughest in the history of civil aviation. It was the first year since 1945 traffic did not grow, but growth has recommenced and we expect it to continue over the remainder of the decade. We reacted to the downturn by

stronger marketing, expanding further our business base and controlling overheads."

Profit margins on operating leases have fallen, partly because hedging against interest rate movements left little benefit from falling rates, but margins on selling aircraft on lease to investors, which accounts for about 60 per cent of profits, improved.

Maurice Foley, the chief executive, said the airline industry had not yet recovered financial stability. Airlines were generally emerging from the recession and the impact of the Gulf war, but with fragile balance sheets.

GPA has four aircraft on lease to TWA, which has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in America. These were likely to be reclaimed and placed elsewhere if TWA does not resume payments after the 60 day moratorium. The group has 27 non-performing leases out of its total owned and managed portfolio of 392. Mr Foley said that on average, payments were about 12 days overdue, though still 18 days in advance.

During 1991, GPA secured \$2.2 billion of new finance, including a \$500 mil-

lion bond issue in December. Liquidity improved after being run down in the early months of the year. Mr Foley said GPA and Citibank were in an advanced stage of talks on a proposed global closed-end institutional fund that could own about \$500 million of modern aircraft on operating leases from GPA.

No decision has yet been taken on the timing of the planned simultaneous flotation in New York, London and Tokyo, but it seems likely to be in the late spring. Between \$700 million and \$1 billion of shares may be sold, including new money and some shares from larger existing shareholders such as Aer Lingus and Air Canada.

The flotation will be aimed principally at institutional investors and would probably use a book-building system, such as that employed for the latest sale of BT shares, if, as now seems likely, the GPA sale is centred in America.

Avianca, the Colombian carrier, which is the world's second oldest airline, will resume using engines built by Rolls-Royce later this year when it takes delivery of two Boeing 757s from GPA.

Outhwaite names' payout to average £117,000



Barbados-bound: Peter Nutting outside Lloyd's yesterday after hammering out a deal to end a four-month legal battle with underwriters

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE 987 loss-making Lloyd's names who took on one of the leading Lloyd's underwriting agencies and 80 Lloyd's members' agents in a four-month legal battle in the High Court will receive cheques averaging £117,000 in early April after agreeing a settlement of the case.

The final terms of the settlement were announced yesterday morning following an all-night negotiating session. Agreement in principle was reached on Sunday.

At a brief court hearing yesterday afternoon, Anthony Bonwood, QC, counsel for the names, told Mr Justice Saville that the parties had reached agreement during a one-week adjournment. The deal is subject to final approval by the members of the Outhwaite 1982 Names Association, who will meet on March 4.

The names will be paid a total of £116 million. This includes £61 million for cash calls made or paid to date, £19 million to cover interest, £34 million as compensation for the risk of future deterioration of the syndicate, and £2 million to cover the costs of bringing the action.

Of the 495 per cent losses so far declared on the stricken 1982 year of account of Outhwaite syndicate 371/661, mitigating names will be returned about 450 per cent. The 600 names on the syndicate who did not join the action will not benefit from the settlement.

In a letter to the members of the Outhwaite Names Association, Peter Nutting, its chairman, said that the committee had been "unanimous in finding these proposals acceptable". The decision to settle had been driven by the possibility that a successful judgment would be subject to appeal and that arguments over the size of the liability "could have meant that we were winning but would see no cash for two years at the very best".

The settlement will be paid by the errors and omissions underwriters who provided cover for the 81 agencies being sued by the names. The errors and omissions policies were written by a number of Lloyd's syndicates representing about 16,000 names.

Mr Nutting, who left for a holiday in Barbados yesterday afternoon, said he had "absolutely no doubt" that he would be making a contribution to settlement payment through his participation on other syndicates.

Stephen Merrett, a leading errors and omissions underwriter, said the decision to settle was not influenced by the quality of evidence of any particular witness, but by the scale of the costs.

YRM eyes east Europe as way to beat recession

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

YRM, the quoted architectural practice, is looking to eastern Europe for work as the recession takes its toll in the West.

The group has set up a Berlin office and a presence in Czechoslovakia, where it is involved in the project to redevelop the Hotel Praha in Prague as a Hyatt Hilton.

YRM has decided to maintain the interim dividend at 1.65p, despite a drop in pre-tax profits for the six months

to end-October from £888,000 to £534,000. Turnover fell from £12.3 million to £10.2 million. The interest bill was down from £172,000 to £45,000, but redundancy and related costs knocked £337,000 off pre-tax profits. Earnings per share fell from 4.1p to 2.54p.

The search for overseas work has taken the group to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Brian Henderson, YRM's

chairman, said: "YRM must and will seek commissions in all available territories."

Mr Henderson said few new projects had arisen in Britain, and the group had experienced highly competitive fee bargaining. But it has secured some high-profile commissions. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has appointed YRM Engineers as building services consultants for its London premises in Broadgate. Channel 4 has

appointed the group to fit out its London headquarters, and the Glasgow office has won contracts for structural and services engineering on the new museum of Scotland and to design a mixed retail and business development in Edinburgh's Princes Street.

Mr Henderson said: "Significant cost savings have been and are being achieved. The cash position remains healthy, and the group has a low level of borrowings. YRM is therefore in a strong position to respond to an economic upturn."

"There can be little doubt that 1992 will be another challenging year. However, YRM has an excellent blend of design and management skills and is well equipped to increase its share of available commissions both at home and overseas. We are a resilient company and will emerge from this recession in stronger shape than before."

The shares were unchanged at 65p.

Opec holds talks to cut output

By MARTIN BARROW

MEMBERS of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries begin talks today aimed at securing a 5 per cent cut in output to stabilise crude prices in the second quarter. Opec ministers meet in Geneva hoping to reach agreement on a formula that would end the production free-for-all that caused prices to fall almost 20 per cent this winter.

Opec prices are about \$4 below the cartel's target of \$21 a barrel and could dip further unless the 13-member group acts before a seasonal drop in demand starts in March. North Sea Brent, which trades at a \$2 premium to Opec crudes, was down 18 cents at \$18.61 yesterday.

Ministers fear that prices will fall further in the second quarter when demand falls as the northern hemisphere emerges from the winter quarter and stocks are depleted. A 5 per cent cut from current output levels of 24.1 million barrels per day is considered enough to avert a collapse in prices but Opec's members are divided about which countries should bear the brunt of lower quotas.

Saudi Arabia, producing 8.5 million bpd or 35 per cent of Opec's output, argues that pro-rata cuts should apply to each member. However, smaller producers, such as Ecuador, Gabon and Algeria, maintain this is unfair. Opec has yet to agree a formula that would allow Iraq to resume exporting oil without affecting prices.

Asil Nadir for trial at Old Bailey

Asil Nadir, the former chairman of Polly Bank, was yesterday committed for trial at the Old Bailey on 66 charges of theft and three of false accounting involving almost £100 million.

Bow Street magistrates also sent for trial John Turner, aged 52, the company's former chief accountant. Mr Turner faces 10 false accounting charges involving £7.4 million.

Mr Nadir, aged 50, of Westminster, was granted continuing conditional bail. Mr Turner, of Wallingford, Oxfordshire, was bailed unconditionally.

Penal levies on Korean radios

The European Commission imposed provisional anti-dumping duties of up to 38.3 per cent on Korean car radios, on the ground that unfair pricing had wiped out European makers' profit margins. The commission said imports of Korean car radios had risen by 190 per cent between 1985 and 1990, taking Korean makers' market share from 15 to 27.4 per cent.

More than 50 of about 70 Korean companies involved had declined to co-operate with a pricing investigation and would have to pay the full anti-dumping duty. The others — including Goldstar, Hyundai and Samsung — would be subject to duties of between 0.25 and 33.95 per cent.

Jenkins in black

Dudley Jenkins, a direct mail supplier, made an interim pre-tax profit of £254,000 (£376,000) in the six months to October 31, after a second-half loss last year. The interim dividend is raised from 1.3p to 1.35p.

Bourse fees cut

The French stock exchanges Association reduced various fees paid by traders on French bourses, giving an overall cut of 10 per cent. Monthly commissions paid by bourse members were reduced by 33 per cent, from Fr180,000 to Fr120,000.

Lasmo oil find

Lasmo, the oil exploration company, has made a second large oil discovery in its block of an oilfield in Colombia. The new well is in the Magdalena valley. During two tests, it yielded oil at 2,800 and 3,000 barrels per day.

SAS buys stake

Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) is acquiring a 51 per cent stake in Linjeflyg, a Swedish domestic airline. SAS said Linjeflyg would continue as an independent airline, but the two companies would work closely together.

Blenheim post

Blenheim Group, one of the world's leading exhibitions organisers, has appointed Christopher Crowcroft, aged 32, as its finance director. Mr Crowcroft succeeds Dick Hosie, who is leaving to set up his own consultancy.

BAe puts £79m into Burwood House

By MATTHEW BOND

BRITISH Aerospace has confirmed that it has paid £79 million into Burwood House, a property company that it jointly owns with Asda, the supermarket group.

However, the payment has not fully resolved the long-running dispute between the two companies. Asda, while welcoming the payment, said it would now consider whether to exercise a put option that it alleges was contained in the original agreement signed by the two companies in 1989. BAE said, in its view, no such option existed.

An Asda spokesman said: "Our legal advice is that that is not quite the case. We believe there is a put option." He stressed, however, that a decision to exercise the option had not yet been taken. Asda's directors, he said, were considering their position.

Burwood House came into being at the end of 1989 when Arlington, BAE's then

recently acquired property development subsidiary, teamed up with Gazeley Holdings, Asda's property subsidiary.

At the time, Asda injected £350 million of supermarket properties, while Arlington's contribution was about £75 million of property development interests.

The £79 million that has now been paid to Burwood House was liable under an indemnity clause requiring Arlington to make up for any fall in value in the properties injected into Burwood, as determined at the end of December 1990.

Arlington believes payment of the money into Burwood House honours its contractual commitment and avoids any question of either a put or call option being exercised by Gazeley.

An Arlington spokesman said: "Any such effort by Asda will be rigorously refuted."

Gateway denies it is to shed 3,000 jobs

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

MANAGEMENT at the Gateway supermarket group yesterday denied claims by Usdaw, the shopworkers' union, that it planned to make up to 3,000 staff redundant.

The company could not put a figure, however, on the number of jobs that would go eventually.

The row between the union and the management erupted after the two sides held talks last Thursday. A spokesman for the group said that the management team had informed union officials that it was seeking cost savings equivalent to cutting 2,000 full-time jobs.

The spokesman said, however, that management had stressed its intention was not

to simply cut jobs. "The group is looking at a package of cost-cutting measures, including more part-time working, overtime reductions and a freeze in recruitment," he said. "Until negotiations at a local level have finished, the group will not know how many jobs are likely to go. All the union has succeeded in doing is alarming the staff."

Gateway employs about 43,000 full-time and part-time staff. The number of full-time equivalent jobs is more than 30,000.

Meanwhile, Safeway yesterday announced it was creating 2,000 new jobs. It said it would take on the extra staff during the next two months at nine new supermarkets, mostly in town centres.

America accused of dumping coal

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission is investigating allegations by British Coal that rival American coal is being dumped on the European market. The timing of the enquiry could not have come at a worse time for the commission, which is desperately trying to prevent already strained relations with Washington developing into an all-out trade war.

EC sources fear that the British Coal suit could spark a backlash from the Americans, who can point to the huge subsidies given to the German coal industry as being trade distorting. But a level playing field is essential for the survival of British Coal, which next year loses its exclusive contracts to supply British electricity generators. The commission, which has not publicly commented



Brittan: persuasion on the dumping charges is expected to decide whether to launch an enquiry within a week. Last year, it dismissed a similar complaint made by British Coal on the grounds of flimsy evidence.

This time, however, British Coal believes "is a stronger case. In the past year, it has closed 14 pits and shed 13,000 jobs, and seen its an-

nual production fall from 92.3 million tonnes to 87.5 million tonnes. At the same time imports of coal into Britain rose from 14.5 million tonnes to 17.5 million tonnes. Coal imported from America is estimated to make up 45 per cent of the annual 130 million tonnes that comes into the EC from third countries.

The commission has asked British Coal for more evidence, and a spokesman confirmed yesterday that this was being sent to Brussels, although he would not say what it was. "There are now no subsidies on British coal. We can't allow our commercial position to be undermined by an aggregation of instances of unfair dumping," he said.

British Coal also mentions China and Colombia in its complaint. However, if the commission does decide to take action and slap tariffs on

incoming American coal, the Americans will find it easy to justify retaliation.

While Britain, Belgium and Spain have all severely rationalised their coal industries in the past few years, the German coal industry continues to be massively subsidised, mainly through the anachronistic "100-year contract" it has with German electricity producers, which are bound to buy the bulk of their coking coal from German collieries at up to three times normal market prices.

Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner, has persuaded Bonn that the 100-year contract should account for no more than 20 per cent of German colliery output by 1995, but for the moment German taxpayers are spending £25,000 pounds a year on each of the country's 133,000 miners.

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KLM and BA merger stalled

British Airways has proved that it can cope with the recession better than most of its peers. Now it must consider how to capitalise on its strengths in a period of economic recovery. The proposed link with KLM, the Dutch carrier, is for the moment at the heart of its plans and they happen to be stalled. Discussions so far have foundered on the size of the equity split between the two groups. BA prefers 70/30, while KLM is sticking on 60/40. There is nothing surprising about this, for there are no hard and fast rules to be observed other than those of catch as catch can negotiation.

For all sorts of reasons, the clean solution of a straightforward takeover of KLM by the much bigger BA is out of the question. The negotiators are therefore arguing about how much of their own shareholders' assets they give away in exchange for the considerable benefits that a link-up would bring.

On the basis of comparative profits, BA should have an overwhelming share of the combined equity. The same can be said for a deal based on relative market capitalisation.

KLM has yet to go through the painful cost cutting which has produced such a strong result for BA. Also, the Dutch carrier cannot bring to the party the international brand strength and network of BA. Further, KLM's 49 per cent stake in Northwest offers both great opportunities but great costs, too, if Northwest's operations are to be upgraded while servicing some \$2 billion of debt.

In time, BA plus KLM and a heavily de-gear Northwest have the potential to become the most powerful airline grouping in the world. That alone guarantees considerable opposition from European regulators subject to the complex political pressures which operate in the EC.

Europe has yet to commit itself fully in practice to an open skies policy and seems to be comfortable with bilateral arrangements which do not work in favour of the consumer. Internally, too, BA will face opposition from those who would damage its prospects internationally in favour of some perceived pro-competition policy on domestic routes. The prize is worth straining after. BA shareholders will not, however, allow their board to give away an uneven share of the ultimate benefits.

Ofgas objects

Almost from the day it was privatised, British Gas has fought a relentless rearguard action against efforts to introduce more competition in gas supply. The company's reaction to recent proposals by the Office of Fair Trading to trim British Gas's share of the industrial gas market from 80 per cent to 40 per cent by 1995, and to force creation of an arm's-length transmission business, ran true to form.

British Gas rattled its sabre. It said, amid other protests, that customers living furthest from the beach-head gas-receiving stations might have to pay higher transmission charges. Sir James McKinnon, the director general of gas supply, yesterday gave that warning the treatment it deserves. Ofgas, the regulatory body, will continue to regulate British Gas on the premise that it is entitled to a certain level of return from its transmission business as a whole.

There is therefore no reason for British Gas to rebalance charges to reflect the distance gas is carried. To do so, as Sir James said, would merely raise administrative costs. It would also send consumer complaints into the stratosphere.

**Martin Waller reports
how Allied Lyons, back
from the depths of last
year's forex disasters,
is sharpening up its
ideas for the future**

Michael Jackman, the reforming new chairman of Allied Lyons, will have to wait a couple of weeks for the second shoe to fall. Of the group's two main schemes to cope with the shake-up of the beer industry prompted by the 1989 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report, the first was badly mauled last week by the regulatory authorities; it has yet to rule on the second.

Allied's share price has recovered sharply since the fall after Budget Day last year, when the group announced £147 million losses on foreign exchange dealings. Some analysts say this is a vote of confidence in the new management; it could equally be seen as a bid premium.

Sudden jumps in the Allied share price, prompted by rumours of an impending assault, have the stale feel of speculators talking up their book. Talk has centred on Philip Morris, the American food and tobacco group, Anheuser-Busch, the world's biggest brewer, and Seagram, America's largest spirits group. More recently, speculators have pointed to an Hanson, another potential predator with sufficient firepower to afford a big premium on top of Allied's £5.5 billion market capitalisation. Speculation has been little affected by apparent denials from the putative bidders. Two strategic stakes in Allied have been on the market over the past two or three years with no apparent takers.

Alan Bond, the second Australian buccaneer to manoeuvre alongside Allied, after John Elliott, only to see the grasping hooks fall harmlessly away, gradually disposed of an 11 per cent holding. More recently, Olympia & York, the Canadian property group, placed in the market a 9.5 per cent holding, converted from preference stock taken during the acquisition of Hiram Walker, the spirits group, after Hanson reportedly turned down the shares.

Allied had its roots in mergers between Ind Coope, Tedy Walker and Ansell, one of the first national brewing combines. Showers, a cider, perry and wine group; and J Lyons food, and catering empire. How far it has departed from those roots is illustrated by the sale of the Lyons Maid ice cream business and the cider interests of Showers in the past three months.

The business is built on a cocktail of international drinks brands including Ballantynes Scotch, Canadian Club whisky, Beefeater gin, Courvoisier brandy, and Kahula and Tia Maria liqueurs. At the same time, Allied's beer business has been tackling against the unpredictable squalls blowing through the post-MMC beer industry. Mr Jackman



Inside story: Michael Jackman and Tony Hales, Allied's new team at the top, are company men to the core. Both were internal appointments

says: "We probably do too many things. In future we would rather do fewer things, but do them better." Last month, Mr Jackman and Tony Hales, his new chief executive, restructured the sprawling empire into four core divisions, spirits and wines, retailing, brewing and wholesaling, and food manufacturing. The message was that peripheral businesses would have to go.

At the time of the forex losses, Allied's response to the post-MMC challenges was judged in the City as, at best, beta-plus. The group was not as far down the restructuring road

as some of the other brewers, while it lacked the overwhelming brand strength of rivals such as Guinness. The forex losses threw Allied onto the front pages and those weaknesses into sharper relief. Someone in Allied's treasury department had been allowed to take huge dollar positions, way out of line with the normal hedging practised by a group of Allied's size, and the dollar had then veered sharply the wrong way.

Clifford Hatch, the Canadian finance director who had arrived with Hiram Walker, took the blame and resigned. He had introduced a more aggressive approach to currency management and also some decidedly trigger-happy traders. The City wanted more blood. Subsequently, Sir Derrick Holden-

Brown, chairman and long-time leader of Allied, and Richard Martin, the chief executive, advanced their retirement dates to the annual meeting last July. The unexpected job of rebuilding the group's credibility in the City fell to Mr Jackman, who found himself in the job a year earlier than expected and quickly promoted Mr Hales.

The drinks side and the food businesses, which include Tedy tea bags, Dunkin' Donuts and Lyons cakes, have been suffering from the recession. The priority has been sorting out brewing and public house interests to comply with the orders since the MMC report.

By the end of last year, Allied thought it had the answer: a link between its breweries and Carlsberg, of Denmark, predictably flagged as "probably the best merger in the world", would give the two 18 per cent of the British market, behind Courage with 20 per cent and Bass with 23 per cent. The deal also made Allied less attractive to a predator as the Danes were given an option to acquire the venture in the event of a bid. Allied-Lyons already has a small cross-shareholding with Suntory, the Japanese brewer, but Mr Jackman does not see this as a precedent. "We would be very nervous about a cross-holding that would make us completely invulnerable, because I don't think that would be in the best interests of shareholders," he says.

To comply with the beer orders the group had to dispose of about 2,000 public houses by next November or free them from the tie to take its beer. With all the other big brewers also anxious to offload unwanted parts of their tied estates, the

public house market is at its lowest ebb for decades — a recent well-publicised auction of 19 properties in London attracted a buyer for only one. Allied thought it had found the ideal solution in a crafty deal with Brent Walker, the cash-strapped leisure group. Brent Walker would lease 734 public houses at affordable rates and agree to take two thirds of its beer needs for all its enlarged 1,800-strong estate from Allied, effectively tying it to Allied.

The deal, and a subsequent and similar agreement for 142 public houses with Burtonwood Brewery,

**'Allied's beer business
is tackling against the
squalls blowing
through the industry'**

in the North-West, left only 600 public houses to be disposed of before Allied was in compliance with the MMC rules. It also drove a brewer's day around, if not straight through, the original intentions of the MMC and attracted strong criticism.

But the Office of Fair Trading has thrown the whole plan into disarray by ruling leased public houses would not count as a reduction of Allied's total estate when the final reckoning took place in November. The OFT's tough stance, perhaps predictable from a regulator that has long been suspicious of the big national brewing combines, raised questions in the market over the Carlsberg deal.

Allied makes light of the OFT ruling, although it appears to have come as a nasty surprise. Mr Jack-

man says: "We have various fallback options in our arrangement with Brent Walker which we can bring into operation, which would mean the deal was as good for us and we would be off the OFT hook."

The OFT has made it clear that Allied can horse-trade by cutting the barrage to be supplied to Brent Walker's estate. Allied retains the right to go for full judicial review come November, but a reduction remains the most likely outcome.

Allied insists that the tougher stance adopted by the OFT has no relevance to the Carlsberg-Tedley joint venture because it does not involve public houses. "It certainly complies with the beer orders and would, I think, lead to more and not less competition in the market-place," Mr Jackman says. That reply is understandable but the planned indefinite supply agreement between Carlsberg-Tedley and Allied's remaining estate is the kind of deal likely to trip wires at the OFT and possibly the European Commission, which is also examining the link.

The new team is anxious to resolve the regulatory beer issue as fast as possible and get on with further developments to sharpen up the group's businesses.

Allied's share price is seen as vulnerable to short-term selling, as the market takes profits after last year's run and before the industry's bad experience over Christmas becomes known. In May, Mr Jackman will announce final pre-tax profits in the £635 million range, little changed from the previous year's £470 million if the forex losses are disregarded. There is still much to be done.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Doctor in demand

FOLLOWERS of the glittering corporate career of David James, the company doctor, will know full well that the appointment of John Olsen, a Cathay Pacific man, as group chief executive of Davies & Newman — Dan-Air — announced last week, and due to take effect in April, signals the departure, in due course, of James. James habitually moves on to pastures new as soon as his corporate patients enter their recuperation phase. Although he insists that he will stay on board Davies & Newman as its non-executive chairman, he admits that he is hoping to utilise his executive capabilities elsewhere. "I'm engaged in two major rescue feasibility studies at present," he says. "They are both very large in terms of their level of bank debt and they are both still listed companies, with live quotes." He refuses to identify their sectors, however, so as not to fuel speculation, but he does say that he turned down one large property company "because that is not my area of expertise. I prefer the commercial and service end". James, who charges £3,000 a day, expects it to be another two months before he decides which, if either, of the proposals to accept. "I would very much like to do one of major national consequence and neither of these two are really in that league," he says.

Going hungry

A £27-a-head buffet and press conference about mortgage arrears and home repossessions, hosted by the Leeds Permanent Building Society, and due to be held at Le Meridien Hotel tomorrow



has been cancelled. Britain's fifth-largest society will announce its rescue scheme by press release instead. The society, whose chief executive, Mike Blackburn, was alone in his criticism of the government for its handling of negotiations on the mortgage rescue scheme last December, says it does not want its £100 million package to be a time of self-congratulation. Meanwhile, the Council of Mortgage Lenders is also expected to announce that the number of repossessions last year rose to more than 80,000, almost double the 1990 figure.

Man in 121

CHRISTOPHER Crowcroft, just promoted from group financial controller to finance director at Blenheim Group — after the departure of Dick Hsieh, to form his own consultancy — might not be a man in a million, but he is certainly the man in 121. Crowcroft, aged 32, landed the job after competing against 120 external candidates put forward by Spencer Stuart, the head hunting agency, during a six-month search. Many of the rival candidates came from FT-SE

100 companies. "We were looking for someone not just technically competent but who understood the City, the stock market, the securities market, the banks, who would be able to motivate a team and who had an agreeable personality," Neville Buch, Blenheim's chairman, says. "A lot just did not have the breadth of experience necessary. We got it down to a shortlist of six and then chose — impartially — the internal candidate."

NOTICE outside a service station in Perth, Australia: "10 per cent discount given on repairs to senior citizens."

Merrill to the fore

MERRILL Lynch is gaining the upper hand in the battle raging in the Square Mile to secure the services of the best European equity specialists. It will today announce that it has recruited two high fee earners: Philip Donald, aged 28, from Paribas, and Joanne Gillis, also 28, from Enskilda Securities. "It means that we will now be talking to 85 institutional clients predominantly UK ones," says Philip Farrer, aged 34, head of European equity institutional sales at Merrill. Farrer, once an officer in the Coldstream Guards, joined Merrill from Swiss Bank Corporation two years ago, and says he opted for a City career after his father advised him against becoming a lawyer. His father, Bill Farrer, was well placed to give such advice. He was, until October, senior partner of Farrer & Co, the Queen's solicitor. "He was a bit surprised when I joined an American firm," Farrer junior admits.

CAROL LEONARD

Dropping the word 'British'

From Mr Roy Jenkins

Sir, The British Institute of Management is proposing to drop the word British from its name. As one who is proud to be British I am appalled. I was proud to be a soldier in the British armed forces during the last war, when we and our English-speaking friends saved the rest of Europe from its follies for the second time this century. I am glad to support a British prime minister who is trying to rescue the peoples of Europe from their follies for a third time.

Forty years spent exporting British goods to 28 countries gives me the pride of having a personal balance of trade heavily in the black. My cars have always been British and I enjoy showing my German friends how quickly a GB plate can disappear into the distance. It is a pleasure to show my French friends that many British A roads are better than their motorways. It is a pleasure to hear Italian salesmen speaking English when selling to Russians and finding themselves at a disadvantage compared with their British competitors. I like to see the British Standard Pipe threads on virtually every hotel radiator valve outside the USA.

I enjoy working with British engineers who are equally at home with the metric and imperial systems of measurement, with obvious export advantages. I am proud that we British managers are leading in the introduction of ISO9000 (BS5750) quality systems.

I am proud to be British: it seems that the British Institute of Management is not. Which of us is right?

Yours faithfully,
ROY JENKINS,
27 St George's Road,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

Protecting shareholders' funds

From Dr Maurice Gillibrand

Sir, Recent correspondence in your columns illuminates the issue of payment to retiring directors from shareholders' funds. Clearly the intention of Parliament in Section 312 of the Companies Act is that such payments should be subject to shareholders' approval except where, as Mr Instone (Business Letters, February 3) points out, these are for damages for breach of contract or pensions for past services. Additionally, Mr Taylor (January 30) refines this distinction in that payments for compensation for loss of office are not a legal commitment and are thereby subject to Section 312, where payments for which provision has been made in a service contract are not.

Nevertheless, the correspondence does not invalidate my original contention that these payments are made only with the automatic acquiescence of shareholders (January 23). In the first place, it is they who approve contracts of appointment of directors and, perhaps, in future, they may pay greater attention to the obligation to make any terminal payments.

Shoe-shop service

From Mr Richard Goss

Sir, Mr David Walton (Business Letters, February 5) is right to deplore the standards of service in many shoe-shops in Oxford Street and elsewhere.

The problem, however, lies in the adequacy of the training, and in realising that those people — of either sex — who formerly provided the assiduity which Mr Walton reasonably seeks, no longer work as shop assistants; they have been to college, taken degrees and are being far more useful.

King Customer

From Mrs Diana Crawford

Sir, With reference to Mr David Walton's letter (February 5), may I suggest he follows the example of a friend of mine. On one occasion he was in one of the branches of a large retail chain awaiting service while a group of female assistants were deep in conversation. Unable to

attract attention, he eventually walked up to the group and commenced: "Ladies, allow me to introduce myself. I am what is known as a customer and without me you would not have a job." After a reflective silence, he was served.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA G. CRAWFORD,
70 High Street,
Albrighton, Wolverhampton.

NEW RATES FROM THE CHESHIRE

FROM 12th FEBRUARY 1992

	INTEREST PAID	GROSS RATE	NET RATE
PREMIUM ACCESS (Tenant Access and a High Rate of Interest)			
£50,000+	Annually	10.25%	7.69%
£25,000+	Annually	9.75%	7.31%
£10,000+	Annually	9.25%	6.94%
£5,000+	Annually	8.50%	6.38%
£2,500+	Annually	8.10%	6.08%
£500+	Annually	7.90%	5.93%
£1+	Annually	4.80%	3.60%

MORTGAGE RATES

The basic rate of interest charged on existing mortgages will be 10.99% from 11th March 1992. Notice of revised rates, effective from April, will be issued later in March to enable any changes to income tax rates (which may be announced in the forthcoming Budget) to be included.

The rates on The Cheshire Premium Access accounts are also reduced in line with these new rates for Premium Access. Annual interest is payable on 31st December. Interest will be payable net of basic rate income tax, (currently 25%, which may be reduced by non-taxpayers) on subject to the required certification, can be paid gross. Rates may vary. Member of the Building Societies Association and Investors Protection Scheme.

CHESHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

TAKING CARE OF YOUR INTERESTS
Chief Office, Castle Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6AH.
Telephone: 0625 613612.

Letters to The Times
Business and Finance
section can be sent by
fax on 071-782 5112.

Portfolio

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won a share of a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share or Unit
1	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
2	Platignum	Industrial	1
3	Cap & Royal	Property	1
4	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
5	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
6	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
7	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
8	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
9	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
10	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
11	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
12	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
13	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
14	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
15	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
16	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
17	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
18	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
19	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
20	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
21	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
22	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
23	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
24	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
25	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
26	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
27	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
28	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
29	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
30	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
31	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
32	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
33	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
34	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
35	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
36	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
37	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
38	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
39	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
40	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
41	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
42	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
43	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
44	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
45	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
46	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
47	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
48	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
49	Crown Plc	Industrial	1
50	Crown Plc	Industrial	1

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	%	P/E
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1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	%	P/E
1	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
2	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
3	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
4	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
5	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
6	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
7	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
8	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
9	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
10	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
11	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
12	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
13	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
14	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
15	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
16	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
17	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
18	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
19	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
20	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
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22	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
23	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
24	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
25	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
26	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
27	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
28	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
29	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
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31	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
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37	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
38	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
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40	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
41	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
42	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
43	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
44	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
45	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
46	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
47	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
48	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
49	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0
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50	1.10	1.05	Almco Plc	1.08	0.05	0.05	4.5	10.0

BREWERIES									
712	460	Alldred-Jones	628	+ 4	18.8	4.0	14.1	1.0	1.0
1367	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
1370	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
1371	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
1372	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
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1377	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
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1449	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
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1451	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
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1467	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
1468	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
1469	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
1470	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
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1487	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
1488	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
1489	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
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1496	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
1497	441	Beck's	318	4.6	14.1	1.0	1.0
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EUROPEAN CAR INDUSTRY

Japan makes inroads

The Japanese are making life hard for Europe's embattled manufacturers, Kevin Eason reports



Toyota and Honda plan to emulate Nissan's success in making cars (above) in Britain

Europe is the battle ground for the world's fiercest fight for car sales over the next ten years. Battling for dominance are Volkswagen, Fiat, General Motors and the French Peugeot-Citroën group.

Within three years, however, the big battalions of Japan, the United States, Eastern Europe and the Far East will be snapping at their heels and capturing large sections of car buyers throughout the Continent.

European sales last year rose by 0.4 per cent to a record 13.5 million, but there was little cause for celebration in the boardrooms of Europe's big motor manufacturers. Almost all the growth came from rapid expansion in Germany after reunification fuelled a 28 per cent increase in sales for the combined market.

For the other key markets in Europe, the year was one of rapidly dwindling sales, and Britain was the worst affected. Take Germany out of the figures and the pattern of sales was much less optimistic as registrations fell by 8.4 per cent.

While sales in Britain slumped by 20.7 per cent, the French market fell 12 per cent, in Spain registrations were down 9.8 per cent and in Italy by 0.3 per cent.

Britain is still struggling with recession, and as reunification euphoria fades in Germany and leads to a levelling of sales there, other European Community countries predict a year of consolidation at best.

Yet the production capacity available to the top dozen or so car makers far exceeds the expectations of the market. In Britain, that has meant thousands of redundancies, such as the 2,100 announced by Ford last week.

In Europe, Ford had a record year, with sales increasing by 3.6 per cent to 1.65 million. In Britain, however, the picture was bleak as sales fell by a fifth and the main Halewood plant on Merseyside, which makes the Escort and Orion models, put

workers on a three-day week.

The British new-car market is unlikely this year to revive much above last year's 1.6 million sales. Ford's answer has been to export half of all output from its Fiesta-making plant at Dagenham, Essex, to the Continent and to prepare Halewood, too, for sales abroad. Those exports, however, will be battling for sales with models from other manufacturers equally keen to maintain their share of the market.

Ford and the other European manufacturers could survive that competition except for one important factor: the competition from new suppliers, particularly the

Japanese based in Britain.

Europe is the last great market still to be conquered by the Japanese.

Nissan's considerable success in establishing an £850 million manufacturing plant at Washington, Tyne & Wear, will be followed later this year by output from Toyota's new £750 million plant at Burnaston, near Derby, and Honda expects to be making cars at Swindon, Wiltshire, early in 1993.

Nissan turned 124,000 vehicles out of the factory gates on Wearside last year alone, and 90 per cent of those were for export. Although that reaped £680 million for Britain's balance of trade, the

impact was felt throughout Europe. The Japanese share of the European market increased from 11.7 per cent to 12.3 per cent, mainly because of the Nissan export drive.

In Britain, sales are held to about 11 per cent of the market because of a voluntary quota agreed annually. In France, sales have in the past been limited to 5 per cent or less and in Italy, 3 per cent.

Under a deal struck last year, imports from Japan are effectively frozen by the EC until the end of the decade. But Europe will still have to cope with the introduction of the new British plants, described by Jacques Calvet, chairman of PSA (Peugeot-

Citroën) and an implacable opponent of the Japanese, as Europe's offshore aircraft carrier.

Production from these British-based factories, known as transplants, could reach 800,000 annually by the year 2000 and 1.2 million throughout the EC. Nissan will be Britain's third biggest manufacturer within two years at present growth rates.

Unless the market grows significantly, there will be more car companies outbidding each other for the same sales.

The Japanese have proved that with their factories on greenfield sites employing young and enthusiastic workers they can set productivity targets, and therefore profitability levels, well out of reach of established European car manufacturers.

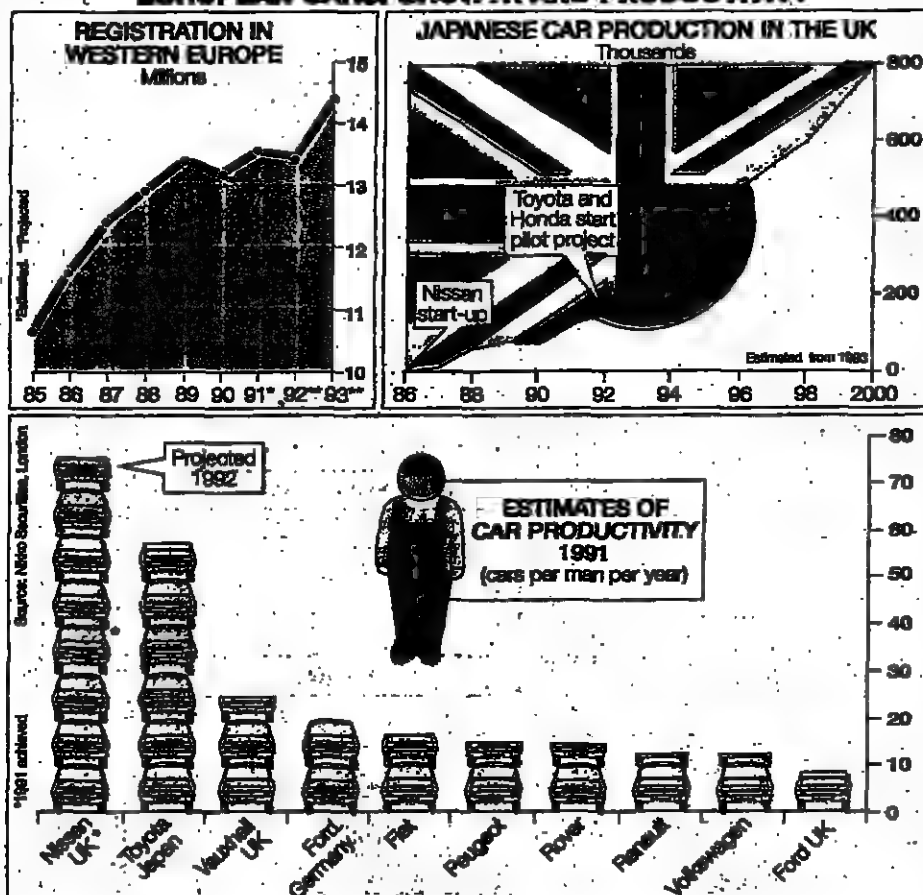
If workers in established European factories hoped that the vast new market of Eastern Europe could provide demand to keep cars rolling out of plants in Birmingham, Stuttgart and Turin, there could be disappointment.

Joining the Japanese are cars from the United States, mainly from Japanese manufacturers but also models from Chrysler and others, marques from Korea and Malaysia not controlled by quotas and new factories tooling up in Eastern Europe.

Investment in Eastern Europe is high enough to increase present vehicle manufacturing from about 2.5 million cars a year to nearer 4.75 million, effectively supplying the enormous pent-up demand in nations such as Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The result will be that the established plants, used to dominating the home European market, will be forced, like Ford in Britain, to slim even further. Thousands more workers are likely to leave the factories as companies search for higher efficiency to compete against the new rivals.

EUROPEAN CARS: GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY



One race. Four firsts.



The striped beast you see above is the new turbo-charged 300bhp Escort RS Cosworth

It's got a headstart on the competition.

Firstly, it won the grueling Spanish Talavera Rally on its first time out. Secondly, it's the first car to employ 'total' body aerodynamics

The result is a measured amount of aerodynamic downforce, which in fact gives the car excellent stability

at exceptionally high speeds and in cross winds.

If you're beginning to think we've a bee in our banner about aerodynamics, you're right. But that's not all.

Under it is the third first: A two stage intercooler which cools the air twice before it enters the engine. The cooler the air the greater the power.

The fourth first is an electro-luminescent instruments panel (the same used in jet aircraft), which provides

perfect clarity, so essential during fast night driving.

This commitment to Motorsport has helped to develop road cars which are on the leading edge of technology.

The new Escort's smoother ride, for example, is the direct result of endless hours of hard driving in the worst possible conditions.

So you see, the fruits of our labours can already be found on today's Fords.

As for tomorrow's Fords, the road-going version of the RS Cosworth will be launched this year

According to Car Magazine "It's the most exciting thing Ford of all"

Our philosophy is quite simple: we come first on the track, so you come first on the road.

Everything we do is driven by you.

For a catalogue or the address of your nearest Ford dealer, call the Ford Information Service free on 0800 01 01 12.



One of the new breed of battery cars: the Citroën Citella

Spark to attract the customers

Manufacturers want government incentives to boost electric car sales

Battery-powered cars seem the fairytale answer to the pollution problem plaguing Europe's cities. They emit no exhaust gases and run silently.

The determination to produce widely appealing battery cars is there. General Motors plans to have its first electric vehicles in mass production by the late 1990s. GM's Impact is a bullet-shaped missile of a vehicle able to outpace most sports cars. The car, however, relies on expensive battery technology and considerable advances have to be made before either the price or the present 120-mile range of battery cars is improved.

Even the sodium sulphate batteries used in BMW's slower E1 electric car cost about £30,000 for a working life of 13,000 miles.

The two batteries used in the experimental Mercedes-Benz electric car cost about £21,000 and in tests the vehicle's first set lasted only 12,600 miles. Within five years, Mercedes hopes to have developed batteries that will last 80,000 miles.

The reality is that battery cars will be dearer, slower and heavier. Ford's president, Allan Gilmour, has already said: "There has been no breakthrough in battery technology. But we need to develop an emission-free vehicle and we are going to do that."

There is no infrastructure enabling battery cars to be quickly recharged on a journey and no answer yet to how best to recharge them overnight at home. France's PSA Peugeot Citroën will study the problem next year when up to 300 motorists in La Rochelle will get the keys to electric cars and a map of the city showing them where to find experimental roadside-recharging posts.

However, when even Mercedes-Benz admits that electric cars with today's technology are barely worth buying, the problem seems intractable. But that has not stopped environmental pressure groups from moving manufacturers along. California is setting the pace and has told car makers that by the year 2003, 2 per cent of the cars sold in the state must be

emission-free. Nine American states plan to follow.

By 1995, Europe and Britain will have on sale the battery-powered Peugeot 106 and the electric Citroën AX, which are indistinguishable in looks from conventional models.

More radical styling comes with Citroën's Ciel (City Electric Automobile), typical of the new European breed of battery cars.

Fully automatic, the car's 72-volt, 20-kilowatt electric motor, designed to last more than 300,000 miles, has a speed of 70 mph and a maximum 130-mile range.

An on-board computer manages power distribution and another innovation uses energy from the brakes to help recharge the nickel-cadmium batteries.

Other cars being developed include BMW's E1, a three-door hatchback using a plastic body. The E1 has a 150-mile range, between seven-hour charges, and cruises at 40mph.

VW has its Chico being developed with Swatch, the watchmaker, once again with three doors, and only 10ft 4in long. Both cars have limited ranges and the answer until longer-range batteries are developed could be hybrid vehicles. With a diesel engine as well as two electric motors, the Peugeot 405 estate hybrid has a range up to 400 miles. Audi's hybrid 100 estate also has an electric motor plus small combustion engine.

Ford, which starts trials worldwide this year of its all-electric Ecostar van, says the key to development is government aid to support manufacturers' innovations.

Ford wants governments to encourage customers, either with grants to subsidise those who buy electric or a pollution tax on those who buy petrol. Such demands are indicative of the need to turn the environmental issue into a political and economical one. Battery cars are coming. The only question is when. Manufacturers believe their arrival can be hastened, if legislators help to create a market that gives car users practical and environmental reasons to buy.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN

Where will all the cars go?

A METEOR trail of zeros trails off the latest figures forecasting traffic growth across Europe. For instance, in Britain in 1960 there were 5.7 million cars on our roads. In 1990, there were almost 22 million and by 2010 there could be as many as 30 million as well as four or five million vans and trucks.

According to the Euro-motor Reports data book, an analysis of future traffic volumes, Western Europe's car park of 126 million will rise to 173 million in 20 years. In Eastern Europe the rate of increase from a smaller base will be much greater - from today's 47 million to 112 million by 2010.

Where will they all go? The report warns: "This density is very high for such a constricted land mass, especially as some of the higher densities are in some of the smaller countries."

As for Britain, the report adds: "These car-ownership levels must be approaching saturation point. This applies particularly to England which contains the vast majority of the automobiles within the UK."

This view is echoed by Fiona Weir at Friends of the Earth. "The only way to turn things round is through a very, very complex set of measures, not one or two miracle cures."

The key, however, is a different approach to land use. "We have to start building workplaces and leisure facilities where people are, not building them first and then working out how to get people to them," Ms Weir says.

Bert Morris, the Automobile Association's highways and traffic manager, also calls for improved public transport, but does not see Europe becoming choked with traffic. He points out that many parts of Europe, including south-east England, are unlikely to see traffic increase simply because most people who are likely to want a car already have one.

THE ANSWER, according to the AA, is for more to be spent improving trunk roads and motorways, while in urban areas, illegal parking is stamped out and public transport systems improved.

The final factor in the problem of increasing car volumes is "scrappage". Future cars will be tested more frequently, and have shorter lives, as vehicles that fail the stringent exhaust tests are weeded out.

While the car as we know it may then have a limited future, the fact is that there will be more and more vehicles on our roads, most of them reincarnated.

Revving up after a slow start

Who will lead the market in 1992?

Eric Dymock looks at the new models

The cars that will appeal to European customers in 1992 are likely to come from Volkswagen, General Motors, Nissan and Mercedes-Benz. BMW, Ford and probably Rover will do well. Losers will include Fiat, Jaguar, Renault, Volvo and perhaps Peugeot-Citroën. Japanese makes without European factories, such as Mazda and Mitsubishi, remain dependent on quotas. Toyota looks likely to stay where it is until its British plant comes into production, and Honda will improve without quite being able to repeat its success in the United States.

Predicting performance from new model programmes is a better guide to trends than analysis of market shares, but however the runes are read, Volkswagen will remain European leader.

In 1992, however, VW will have to rely on the new Golf to carry on the good work. The car is larger and heavier than its predecessor, designed in the 1980s for what seemed likely to be the prosperous 1990s. Even if VW's steady move upmarket now appears optimistic, the com-



Front runner: the new Volkswagen Golf should help the manufacturer maintain a lead position

pany says the car's extra weight and size are in the good causes of safety and the environment.

The Passat, a worthy car, will soon have more speed and power, but a replacement for the Polo is too far away. Seat is making a good name and the new Audi 80 is a praiseworthy rival to BMW's 3-series.

Fiat seems less confident. A replacement for the Uno is overdue, and the new engine programme for the Tio and its notchback deriva-

tives has not caught buyers' imagination. Second place in the market with 1.8 million sales is not failure, but nor is it complete success.

Britain is a microcosm of Fiat's European performance. The cars are competitive, quality control seems good, styling, servicing, economy and a good dealer network are all in place, yet the customers have not taken the cars to their hearts.

Rover's revival shows that it is possible to pull back from the

threshold of disaster and regain customers' confidence. Alfa Romeo and Lancia both show encouraging signs, but the sales of neither have reflected cheering press comment.

General Motors is third in the European sales league by a slim margin. The company has two highly competitive models in the top-selling 1.4-litre to 2.0-litre class. The Vauxhall Cavalier (Opel Vectra) is well established, and success seems assured for the new Astra.

The Astra and the Cavalier will make up most of GM's total in 1992. During the year, GM could pull further ahead of Ford.

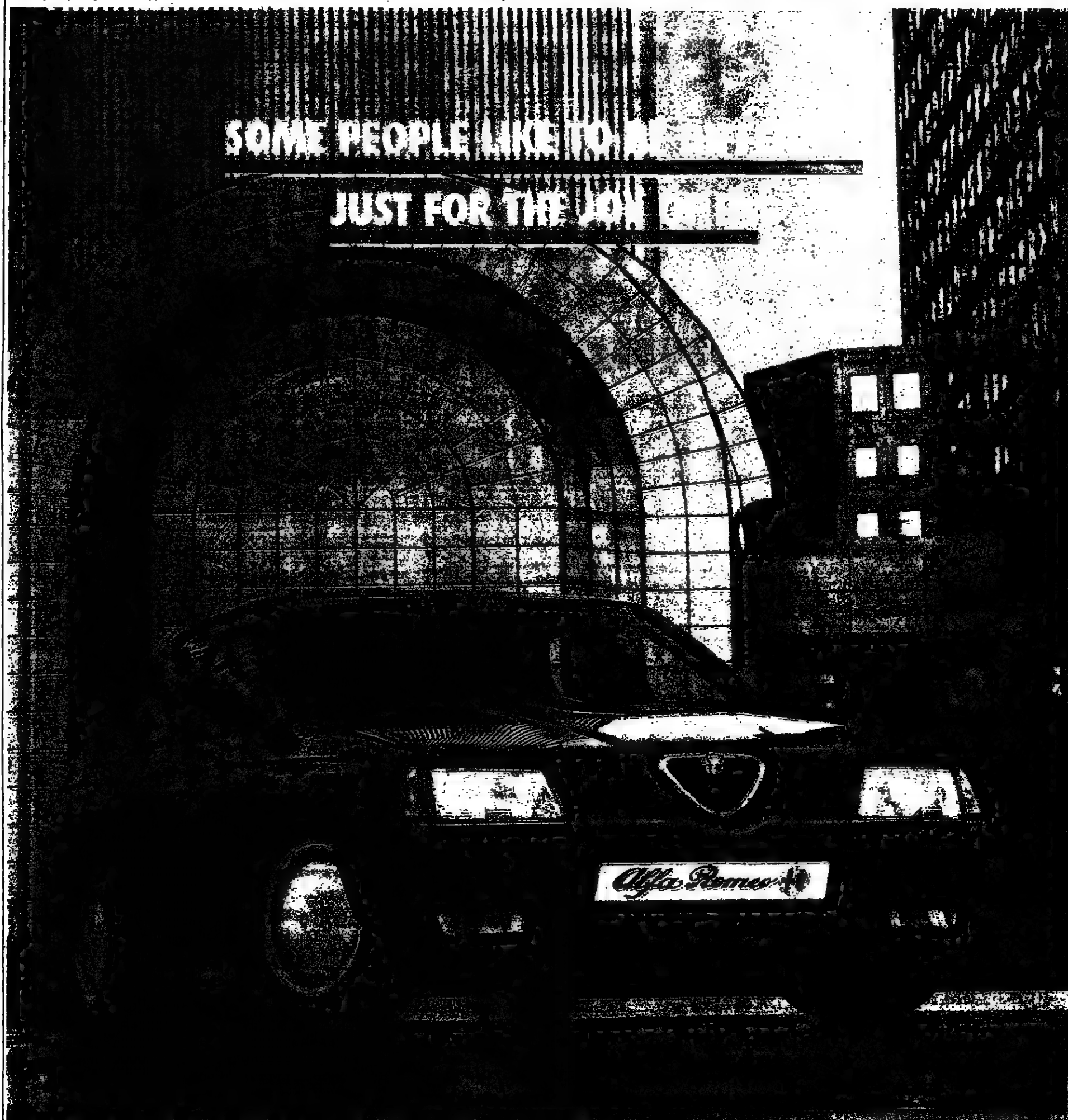
GM was not helped much by its acquisition of Saab, which is working hard to stem declining fortunes. In the long term, Saab will represent GM's upmarket range.

Jaguar, Ford's equivalent prestige make, shows little sign of recovery, although Ford itself is responding vigorously to GM's challenge. The Sierra replacement is still a year or more off, but the new engines in the Escort will go a long way to make up for its comparatively slow start.

The new Mercedes-Benz 190 in the autumn will be too late to influence the 1992 sales figures, but it indicates the continued vitality of the world's oldest manufacturer.

Nissan had a bad year in Britain during the dispute between the distributing organisation and Nissan UK. Sales fell from 110,000 cars, almost 6 per cent of the market, in 1990 to only 70,000 in 1991, yet exports increased. By summer, when the new Micra is in full production, Nissan will take a significant part of the European market.

Peugeot and Citroën need luck to make progress. Diesel incentives may bring some in Britain, as Peugeot makes some of the best diesels, but in 1992 the most it can hope for in the European market is to stay where it is.



Few cars embody the spirit of individuality better than the Alfa Romeo 164: a fusion of stirring performance and superlative comfort. And perhaps best of all, it's beautifully distinctive.

Pinfarina can take much of the credit, having designed what is recognised as one of the best styled cars in the world.

Indeed Performance Car Magazine awarded us that very accolade and also went on to rate our 184 bhp 3 litre V6 engine as "best in the world". The 148 bhp 164 2.0 Twin Spark received no less rapturous applause.

What Car? "...can you think of a better 2.0 litre executive car? We can't." And just to underline the point they voted the model "Executive Car of the Year".

Business Magazine claimed "...this Twin Spark engine is a minor classic in its own right."

The figures speak for themselves: from 0-60 mph in 9.2 seconds and 130 mph, where permissible.

"The price quoted is correct at time of going to press and includes car tax, VAT and labour cost of the first service. There will be an additional charge of £295 plus VAT for delivery and number plates. Manufacturer's performance data.

Much admired, too, were the comprehensive specifications which come as standard on every model in the range: 6 year anti-rust warranty, electric windows, electrically operated and heated exterior door mirrors, power steering, central locking, a six speaker stereo system and ABS on the 3 litre V6 models.

Select the Lusso model and you gain an electric sunroof, alloy wheels plus, on the 3 litre model, air conditioning as standard. The ultimate 164, the 200 bhp 3.0 V6 Cloverleaf boasts all these features, and adds full leather upholstery and a sophisticated electronic suspension damping system.

So when it comes to performance and individuality, there's no better place to be seen than behind the wheel of an Alfa Romeo 164. Prices start from £17,040* for 164 2.0 Twin Spark. The 164 3.0 V6 is £22,275* and the 164 3.0 V6 Cloverleaf, £27,980*.

Test drive the difference just for the joy of it and discover a whole new world of motoring.

To: Alfa Romeo Information Service, PO Box 472, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0BR., or telephone: (081) 812 0888 (24 hours). Name (Mr. Mrs. Miss) _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel. No. _____ Present car _____ Year of Reg. _____

Which model interests you? Twin Spark ☐ 3 Litre ☐ Cloverleaf ☐



A RACE APART

The costs of starting-up

David Young looks at the variety of deals on offer for rescue services

Prospective car buyers often wonder why, if a manufacturer's cars are so reliable, it offers a breakdown service as an incentive to buy.

Properly explained, the breakdown package will be seen as a real incentive, especially as today's packages are individually tailored and most cover driving on continental Europe as well as in Britain.

An example of the tailor-made packages that rescue services are offering is the On Call recovery system. This is offered on all new cars from the Volkswagen Audi group. A wider scheme covering rescue within Europe will be announced soon by National Breakdown.

The On Call service lasts for six years and is transferable to future owners, a factor that helps to keep second-hand prices up.

There are no annual charges for the cover, which remains in force for as long as the Volkswagen or Audis are serviced according to the manufacturer's schedule.

The scheme is not a Volkswagen Audi invention but a product of Mondial Assis-

tance, a continental company that is making inroads into the British market.

The four main British recovery groups, the Automobile Association, the Royal Automobile Club, National Breakdown and Britannia, have all responded by offering various forms of continental cover.

The RAC and AA are seeking stronger links with European recovery groups. Another system of cover, which appeals to fleet users, is the pay-as-you-use arrangement. This is also offered by all of the big recovery organisations.

The car owners pay a small annual registration fee for the vehicles covered and pay more only if the system has to go into action.

Ian Hare, general manager of Fleet Motor Management, which runs 45,000 cars, says: "I believe that the cost of these systems is satisfactory. By and large the service given by most of the recovery groups is reasonable. Obviously there will be times in the year when demand for their services is higher and then there is sometimes a longer wait for recovery, but I would



Ford escort: breaking down can be very hard to do, but drivers are deluged with options by rescue companies

say that they are all trying very hard."

Membership of a recovery organisation is becoming more important. Although cars are more reliable than ever, many have electronic components, which means that roadside repairs are often impossible. The recovery organisations are also aware of how fragile the link between the user and the service

is. The safest way of seeking help in a breakdown is to stay in the car with the doors locked and to summon assistance using a mobile telephone, but mobile telephones are too costly for many drivers. However, within a year or so there could be a cheaper alternative. The RAC has been researching the viability of equipping motorists prepared to pay for it with

an emergency transmitter, inevitably named ET, which they could summon help in a breakdown or emergency.

According to Judith Mallet, the RAC's project co-ordinator, the device is the size of a portable telephone, and would cost £50 to £150. She says: "Fitted inside any vehicle, RAC ET allows stranded drivers to radio for help from

the security of their own cars. A built-in vehicle location device means we can trace the driver within seconds."

The transmitter works through a navigation network operated by Datatrak of Swindon, the RAC's partner in the two-year research project.

The RAC hopes to put the service into operation next year.

Royal Automobile Club

Call-outs by RAC officers or by approved independent agent. Four-level service costs £60 to £132 a year, £18 discount for direct debit. New Rescue includes roadside and home assistance. New Recovery adds transport of broken-down vehicle to owner's chosen destination. Reflex adds overnight accommodation and a hire car or rail fares to continue the journey and Reflex Europe extends the scheme to the Continent (081-452 8000).

Automobile Association

The AA (0800 919595) has more than 7.6 million members and 3,500 patrol vehicles but also uses independent garages. It has five levels of service. Membership provides roadside assistance. Homestart provides assistance at home if the car will not start. Relay is the AA's full recovery service, and Relay Plus adds a hire car. Frequent Traveller adds year-round cover throughout Europe. Discount for paying by direct debit.

National Breakdown

The third biggest organisation uses approved agents (0532 393939).

Britannia Recovery

Britannia (0484 514848) has a reputation for fast call-outs, and offers free legal advice, discount for direct debit and a £25 Superstart service within ten miles of the member's home.

Europ Assistance

Europe's biggest motoring organisation uses independent garages rather than its own vehicles (081-680 1234).

Mondial Assistance

Established in France in 1974, it works with big car manufacturers (081-681 2525).

Assistance

Full British and European recovery service through garage agents. A no-claims discount is offered (0604 232334).

Humbro

From a central telephone number, it will organise rescue. Roadside assistance and recovery service costs £33.50, and £45.25 includes home assistance. Cars more than 20 years old not covered (0206 870570/863123).

Top Rescue

Uses 1,800 independent garage agents; basic cost £25 a year, £30 including home start. No cars more than 20 years old (0276 685333).

Guild of Experienced Motorists

An insured scheme: members organise their own help and claim a refund. GEM Recovery (0342 825676) costs £29.95 a year by direct debit, including £12 membership.

Cali

An offshoot of the Country Gentleman's Association. Annual fee £16 by direct debit (0800 525200).

European route to madness

Brussels bureaucrats care more for car makers than motorists

The dream of a happy and united Europe, a place of peace and progress, is at odds with the reality — at least so far as the motor car is concerned. The many areas where standardisation could occur, making motoring for the European citizen easier and cheaper, are the cause instead of conflict and confusion.

There are, for example, no European safety requirements. Instead there are national minimum standards on all manner of subjects from seat belt strength to crash testing, which, when ratified by the Eurocrats, become European Community standards for all manufacturers wanting to build or sell cars in Europe.

However, certain countries, particularly Germany, spend more on research and development into safety than others.

The German standards are higher than those of some countries, and are therefore not suitable for adoption throughout the community because they cost too much for the industries in those countries that lag behind.

Britain has the best road safety record in Europe. Road-death statistics show Britain with the lowest figure, 94 per million of the population, and Portugal the highest with 315. Spain has the second worst record with 196, followed by Belgium with 195 and France with 194. There is a European-wide move towards safer vehicles but it was spawned, and is supported, by lobbying outside the European Commission, not by officials within. The commission's method is directed towards making sure that national sensibilities are not offended and that national interests are not damaged by regulations that may save the lives of a few Europeans.

National type approvals, standards set by a government for specific national requirements and which have to be met by all cars sold in that country, have become community type approvals, carefully geared to ease vehicle manufacturing. Items that have yet to become subject to European standards are glass and tyres. Both the French and Italian governments are resisting agreement, so there are still different standards in Europe on these vital items.

The French and Italians are resisting because the delay gives them a weapon in the conflict over Japanese imports.

The Japanese threat to companies such as Fiat, Renault, Peugeot and Citroën is growing because Nissan is already building cars in Europe and Toyota will be in production by the end of the year.

There is already an agreed world standard for most automotive components. The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) has defined minimum levels of manufacturing quality to allow cheaper production and better cars. The ISO standards are not considered suitable for the European Community.

European lobbyists will tell you of the increasing number of absurdities in the dealings of the commission. For example, since January the European minimum depth of tyre tread has been 1.6mm. According to experts in the industry, there is no safety advantage over the previous British minimum, but it has cost motorists who have had to replace their tyres a great deal of money.

In Britain crash helmets have to pass stringent safety tests before being allowed on sale. This makes our regulations the toughest in the community. However, the commission wants to impose its own standard, again based on the lowest in Europe. The reason for choosing the lowest rather than the highest standard is that the latter would create unfair competition.

In the minds of the commission, it seems, the benefit to the user is of no consequence when compared with the demand for commercial equality.

Driving licences and the driving test are covered by a commission directive that specifies minimum standards for driver testing. The British test is much more exacting than these standards. However, the Driving Standards Agency, which runs driving tests, says it is unlikely that the British test will need changing. Theory testing is being reviewed by the agency and could be implemented without European approval.

The commission has not yet laid down minimum road building standards, although it has attacked some road-building plans in Britain.

There is an inexorable move towards European standards for everything. In the world of cars and motoring, there are strong doubts that these will bring benefits. Indeed, if the hapless European motorcyclist's head is an example of harmonisation, what is being proposed is not helpful at all, and could be positively harmful.

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England erase sour memories of past tours

Gooch can claim the credit for a bright new image

There are few common factors between England's 2-0 victory in the Test match series that ended in Wellington on Monday and the stultifying, scoreless draw of four years ago. The personnel was greatly changed on this tour, the cricket was altogether more watchable and the on-the-field conduct was above criticism.

All three alterations reflect credit on Graham Gooch. No England captain since Mike Brearley has presided over such a successful run in Test cricket, nor enjoyed the autonomy consequent to that success. This is very much Gooch's team and, by standing up for the characters he required for the job, he assumed responsibility, if not for how they performed, then at least for how they behaved.

In performance, they have left behind the wretched memories of last winter in Australia. Allan Lamb and Phil Tufnell, who came home from that tour with their futures clouded, were, respectively, the leading Test batsman and bowler this time.

The fielding, a sick joke 12 months ago, was unrecognisable. But in image, too, England have retrieved lost ground in this country.

Whereas, in 1988, there were players who missed no opportunity to behave with the pouting churlishness of a child who has had his treat cancelled, the present party has accepted good and bad decisions with something close to equanimity.

Stoicism, of course, comes easier when you are winning. The last England side here came fresh from dust-ups in Pakistan and Sydney and had adopted a persecution complex with the series barely under way. Mike Gatting not only saw no wrong in that, he even orchestrated much of the penulthood.

Gooch has laid different ground rules and is held in sufficiently high regard for no one to have stepped out of line. There is, however, one member of the hierarchy common to both tours and that is the team manager, Micky Stewart.

It was here, in 1988, that Stewart's role was seen in its most unflattering light because, at the very times

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, reviews the numerous highs and occasional lows of England's Test match series with New Zealand

when he should have been distant enough from his players to condemn some of their actions, he was locked into their mentality to the extent that he condoned misconduct and could not understand it being questioned elsewhere.

On Monday, by his over-zealous protection of the stretcher bearing David Lawrence from the Basin Reserve, Stewart gave a reminder of those times. Nobody should doubt that his behaviour, even in manhandling a cameraman, was driven by the best intentions for his stricken player. Much can be forgiven in such circumstances. But, not for the first time, emotional mists overcame Stewart, damaging his perspective.

Even some hours later, he was struggling to compose himself, unable to comprehend why anyone should be concerned with matters other than the welfare of the player.

I sympathised with him, far more than when his players were under fire four years ago, but there is no disputing he has helped create an over-blown scandal where there should have been only sadness. Not the smallest sadness now is that Stewart's final overseas Test series as manager should have ended so sourly. Everything that preceded it showed him in the way he would wish to be remembered — caring about



Stewart: conscientious

his team and conscientious about his duties, usually to the point of taking on too much.

Stewart is at his happiest when talking cricket and he was grateful, yesterday, to look back on the series, comparing it with 1988. "Some of that series was unspeakably bad," he agreed, "and much of the problem related to the pitches, which made it too hard to bowl anyone out."

"The surfaces prepared for all three Tests this time have provided good, interesting cricket of all different types. All credit to the New Zealanders for taking such a positive attitude."

The final Test contained 230 overs of spin bowling, bearing out Stewart's remarks. Seventy-six of them were bowled by Tufnell, who was not only the most influential bowler in the series but also a monument to the leadership of Gooch. For a confirmed maverick, his temperament has held up admirably under stress.

Gooch himself has had two recurring themes — the fact that England were never treating it simply as a World Cup warm-up and a vindication of his theory that Alec Stewart could be made into an opening batsman.

Stewart, with 330 runs in the three Tests, was arguably the man of the series and Gooch allowed no one to forget it. "He has taken his chance, as I expected he would," he said. "He has tightened up his game, reacting to the responsibility and could now go from strength to strength."

The next place he could go, in fact, is into Gooch's boots as touring captain in India next winter. That would be the acid test of how much he has advanced and how broad his horizons have become. It will also indicate whether he can achieve the one thing his father could not — maintain a balance between the passions of the team and the attentions of the outside world.



Centre of attention: David Lawrence's career still hangs by a slender thread, but he came spiritedly through the first barrier to recovery yesterday with the successful completion of surgery to wire his broken kneecap (Alan Lee writes).

Remarkably soon after the operation, at the Wellington hospital, England's heavyweight fast bowler was sitting up in a wheelchair, challenging anyone to write him off. Nobody tried and, if the suspicion remains that the size of his body and the style of his bowling will conspire against him playing again, the certainty is that nobody in his plight will try harder.

Lawrence was into his third over

on Monday evening when his left knee buckled beneath him in his delivery stride.

"It was like someone put a gun to my kneecap," he said. "It just popped. The first thing that went through my mind was that it might be the end."

"I have since spoken to people who believe I will never play again, but I am very determined to fight back and prove them wrong. The doctors are quite confident that if I take it very easy I will be OK, and the operating surgeon even said that six months was a reasonable target for starting to play again."

Laurel Brown, the England physiotherapist, was Lawrence's first visitor

after the surgery. He said: "Everything went smoothly. The good news is that nothing has happened internally to the knee. It is just the bone that is damaged."

Lawrence's first target is to put some weight on the leg, while supported by crutches, before he flies home to England, which could not be within a week. Longer term, nobody can be confident of his prospects, and Brown played devil's advocate when expressing the worst of the doubts.

"There can be no guarantee that it won't happen again," he said. "It may be that the strength of his leg muscles has caused the problem. The left knee could repair as strong

as ever, but then the other knee could go."

"I hope he can bowl as fast again, but it will be in the back of his mind that with one ball he could feel something horrible go again. He will have to get rid of that thought."

Meanwhile, as the England management sought to resolve the dispute with Television New Zealand, Lawrence was emphatic in his defence of colleagues who reacted aggressively to the presence of cameramen while he was being carried from the field on Monday.

"They were like vultures with their cameras," Lawrence said. "Didn't they realise what I was going through?"

Australian conditions look to be a stumbling-block

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN PERTH

WITH only a week to go to the opening ceremony of the World Cup, four of the nine sides are here playing warm-up matches and finding themselves some way short of prime form. Pakistan and India have both lost one-day games to Victoria, and Zimbabwe were roundly beaten by Queensland's second XI last Sunday, the same day as the South Africans lost to Western Australia.

Even England, when they arrive, are going to find it a different game from the one they are playing in New Zealand. Their opening match is on the trampline in Perth, where adjustment is a problem. It is probably as well that their opponents will be India, rather than Australia. West Indies or Pakistan, all of whom have bowling attacks well suited by such a pitch.

Mohammed Azharuddin, the India captain, felt understandably that most of his side would have benefited from a week without cricket after the end of the Test series last Wednesday. The snag

with that was that it would have given the two young batsmen they have brought over for the World Cup, to replace Sidhu and Vengarkar, even less chance than they already have of getting accustomed to the steeper bounce of the ball.

Bating on the sub-continent and in Australia can provide the sort of contrast which tennis players face when switching from the clay courts of Paris to the grass of Wimbledon. Perversely, the pitch at the Adelaide Oval yesterday, on which the South Africans arranged an additional fixture, was slow and sometimes low, having already been used for the four days of the recent Sheffield Shield match between South Australia and Queensland.

The last time South Africa had played on the ground, in January 1964, they scored 595, their highest total in Test cricket. Eddie Barlow making 201 and Graeme Pollock 175. Yesterday's game, against a side comprising mostly former pupils of

the Australian Institute of Sport's cricket academy in Adelaide, was washed out soon after the South Africans had made 205 for seven in 50 overs; but another milestone had been raised.

For a few balls towards the end of the South Africa innings, two Cape Coloureds were batting together, Omar Henry and Faiz Davies, one of two players from what, before unification, was the predominantly non-white South African Cricket Board, who are here for experience.

Davies has, in fact, played several times for Western Province, and looked a natural games player, just as he did when playing touch rugby, as a training exercise, with the rest of the South African party on Monday afternoon.

South Africa's last Test match was a 2-0 defeat by Australia in 1988. South Africa's last Test match was a 2-0 defeat by Australia in 1988. South Africa's last Test match was a 2-0 defeat by Australia in 1988.

Extra man may pose problems

BY RICHARD STREETON

KEITH Fletcher, the England A team manager, admitted yesterday that the addition of Mark Ramprakash to the party for the short tour to Bermuda and the West Indies would bring selection problems in its wake.

Martyn Moxon's 16-strong side now looks top heavy with batsmen, four openers and four middle-order men being included.

Ramprakash, after having few chances on the senior tour to New Zealand, will join the team around February 26, towards the end of its ten days in Bermuda. The programme in the West Indies comprises only 19 match days (six fixtures).

Fletcher said Ramprakash faced a great personal challenge. "It is important that he gets right mentally," he said. "His problem is that he has got to do well for us. If he does not, there will be other people trying to take his place."

Fletcher was speaking at the National Sports Centre, Lillishall, where the players are spending three days for

intensive training. It is the climax of five weeks of preparatory work at various other centres, made possible by the Whitbread coaching sponsorship scheme.

In Devon Malcolm and Andy Pick, Fletcher believes he has the two fastest bowlers in English cricket. Both at their peak were quicker, he felt, than the unfortunate David Lawrence. Malcolm, who said Lawrence's accident was both "a tragedy and a nightmare", said he hoped the tour would prove "a re-launch platform" for his own international career.

Michael Atherton and Angus Fraser, whose injuries forced them to withdraw from this winter's England tour, were among the players at Lillishall. Atherton's back problems are disappearing and he expects to be fit to play for Lancashire on tour in South Africa next month. Fraser's hip injury is mending and he could do some gentle bowling in the nets when he visits Barbados privately in early March.

BOTHAM'S CAREER RECORD									
Test match batting and fielding					Bowling				
Opposition	41	1	NO	Runs	HS	Opposition	41	1	NO
Australia	36	59	2	1873	149	Australia	29	35	4
West Indies	20	38	1	782	81	West Indies	21	40	1
New Zealand	15	32	2	846	138	New Zealand	20	38	1
India	14	17	0	1201	208	India	20	38	1
Pakistan	13	19	0	688	119	Pakistan	20	38	1
SA Lanka	13	19	0	41	22	SA Lanka	20	38	1
Total	100	188	6	5192	206	Total	33	52	118

ALL FIRST-CLASS MATCHES									
Batting and fielding					Bowling				
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Balls	Runs	Wkts	Avg	50
375	575	43	18270	228	3434	30148	1130	26.80	94
Compiled by Richard Llewellyn									

Professionals hope to end amateur domination

BY SALLY JONES

THE world's two best professionals will meet two of the leading amateurs for the Lacoste world doubles racket championship at Clifton College today, with the second leg on Saturday at Queen's Club.

Neil Smith, from Chicago, who is the British professional champion, and Shannon Hazell, the Clifton professional, who is the newly-crowned British Open winner, were narrowly beaten last year by James Male and John Prens, but will

start as favourites this time. With Male unable to compete because of pressure of work, Harrow-educated Prens teams up for a rare outing with his friend Willie Boone, an old Etonian, traditional rival forgotten in the bid for the world crown.

At 41, Boone is still a leading force in the game and at the weekend beat Smith, the holder, in a two-and-a-half hour cliffhanger to reach the final of the Lacoste British Open, before losing an exciting tussle with Hazell as the effects of his gruelling semi-final took their toll.

Smith and Hazell are eager to prove once and for all that they are now the best in the world, after years in the shadow of the amateurs.

The fast and fluent Hazell, who last season made a brave but unsuccessful challenge for Male's world singles title, is now fully fit after months of injury and keen to build a healthy lead in the first leg on his home court. Smith, a powerful left-hander, who has been training hard in Chicago, took the British professional title in majestic style, only to show hints of the tentativeness and

fluctuating concentration that have marred his play in the past in the Open semi-final against Boone.

"Shannon and I are feeling pretty confident," he said yesterday. "We've played together a lot and I'm reasonably happy with my game at the moment."

Boone and Prens, aged 38, are determined to prove that they can outwit the younger pair and counter their extra power and pace with tactical subtlety, despite giving away nearly two decades in their combined ages. Prens, who recently

had influenza, has won both the British and Canadian amateur titles this season.

Boone will no doubt try to dominate the match, a role he relishes, as he is still phenomenally fit and his renowned zest for the game is unimpaired. "We're obviously going to have to play above ourselves to match Shannon and Neil but we're both great competitors and mentally very strong, as well as knowing one another's game inside out," he said. "I'm thrilled still to be playing at this level in my forties and experiences counts for a lot."



Prens: defending

Birds, blossom and baboons amid the bunkers

JOHN Michuki gazed out from his farmhouse over the lines of coffee bushes, over the forests of albizia and diospyros, over the blue-hazed deep green fields, towards Mount Kenya.

Here he was deep into his fifties; behind him a career in public service from district commissioner in the last days of the British colonial administration to founder and chief executive of the Kenyan Commercial Bank, now head of an international investment company with interests in agriculture, shoe-making and property. And he was dreaming, as all golfers do, not just of reducing his handicap, but of having his very own custom-built golf course: a lake here, a cluster

of bunkers there, a plateau green here, a dog-leg there. Most of us dream on. Michuki stopped dreaming and went to work. He hired Tom Macaulay, president of the British Institute of Golf Architects, as his course designer; they examined ideas in Europe and the United States; they developed a special Bermuda hybrid grass that would thrive in the fine red soil; they took advice from naturalists as well as from Charles Farrar, the most experienced of Kenya's

golf professionals ... and through 150 acres of those towering forests, eight miles from Nairobi, they turned Michuki's vision into a spectacular reality.

There are half a dozen holes that will delight the memory for a long while: there are occasional reminders of Quinta do Lago, Valderrama and the US; but, with birdlife as colourful as it is abundant (one estimate is that there are more than 200 species on the course), and the occasional families of baboons and monkeys, this is nowhere but Kenya.

To accompany his course, Michuki built a 130-bed resort hotel in a crescent just beyond the 9th and 18th greens. The hotel is in a style

best described as African baronial, but it is as expansive as the landscape. The total cost was about £6 million, huge by Kenyan standards.

This month Michuki and David Stoddard, his chief executive, and Guy Epsom, his sales and marketing manager, opened the Windsor Golf and Country Club to visitors. Their target is the international golf tourism market. "People are travelling all over the world to play golf these days," Michuki says. "I can't see any reason why they shouldn't come to Kenya."

Few golfers are going to journey thousands of miles for a holiday playing just one course, no matter how special it is; they will want to try one or two others. The Nairobi area will not disappoint them.

Karen, beautifully-maintained and aglow with blossom, Muthaiga, a daunting test that is the home of the Kenya Open championship, and Royal Nairobi, newly-refurbished, are busy with members but can accommodate few visitors. The more accessible options for larger groups are Lamuru, a piece of Berkshire downland transposed to the equator, and Sigona, renowned for its plethora of flowering shrubs.

There is a visiting welcome at all of them, not least from the caddies, whose light-fingered charm and mischievous cast them as the chorus line from Oliver. It is no wonder that the Kenya Golf Union is planning to register caddies in an attempt to discourage the dishonest ones.

It would be crass to visit Kenya without looking beyond the golf courses. We included a three-day visit to the Masai Mara National Reserve (even more exciting than we had expected), a day's racing in Nairobi, and a visit to the Nairobi National Park (a remarkable game reserve on the city's outskirts).

But we left with a disappointment. John Michuki had one dream still unfilled: his handicap was still 21. Our holiday was arranged by Abercrombie & Kent. We stayed at the Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi, and Kikwai Tembo camp at Masai Mara.

NETBALL

Sweeney and Gravenor get the call

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

PAT Sweeney and Jane Gravenor will make their senior debuts for England against Scotland at Tonbridge, Kent, on Saturday.

The wing attack and goal attack, from Essex Metropolitan and East Essex respectively, are the two new faces in the first England side selected by Liz Broomhead, the England coach who succeeded Betty Gaisworthy in November.

England Under-18 are also in action against their Scottish counterparts at Tonbridge, where Mary Beardwood will be in charge of them for the first time since succeeding Broomhead.

The Midlands second XI won the inter-divisional tournament contested by representatives of 19 universities at Nottingham last weekend. The South's second XI, the Midlands first XI and the North first XI were second, third and fourth. The Midlands sides consisted mainly of players from Loughborough and Birmingham.

The quarter-final draw for the national clubs competition is: Toucans v Harborne, BICC v Academy, Henley v Aquila, New Cambell v Linden.

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Ballyanto to follow up for Holder

RICHARD Holder, refreshed by a mid-season break in Barbados, returned to saddle a double with More By Luck and Star Season at Hereford on Monday.

This versatile trainer, based at Portbury, near Bristol, should maintain the momentum at Worcester today with Ballyanto in the Astwood Handicap Hurdle through.

Last month, Ballyanto landed a competitive selling handicap hurdle over two-and-a-half miles at Chepstow by 30 lengths and the stable was able to retain its winner for just 3.200 guineas.

Ballyanto, again ridden by

the promising claiming rider David Matthews, returned to Chepstow for a novices' handicap hurdle over two miles and stayed on well for third place behind J Brand.

Now tackling three miles for the first time, Ballyanto can take advantage of his lenient mark by beating Toby Balding's fluent Newton Abbot winner, Mr Lion, and Grange Brake, who had good novice form earlier in the season.

Richard Lee produced Comedy Road for a 20-length success at Wolverhampton late in December and the eight-year-old, despite racing

over a shorter trip, can complete a double in the Abbey Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase.

The other handicap chase can go to Monumental Lad, a course and distance winner, who, uncharacteristically, fell when challenging the eventual winner, King Of The Lot, at Wolverhampton last week.

However, for the nap I rely on the Kevin Bishop-trained Steeple Jack to open his account in the second division of the EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle.

Steeple Jack, despite starting at 66-1 for his debut, finished an encouraging close-up third behind Barry Window and Irish Bay at Newton Abbot last month.

His credentials look superior to that of Jenny Pittman's Chemin Le Roi, who beat a hasty retreat when a tailed-off sixth behind Native Pride at Cheltenham.

The first division of this event looks at the mercy of David Nicholson's Carobee, who decisively beat Ring Of Fortune — a runaway winner at Plumpton on Monday — at Leicester last month.

The Heathfield trainer

Garrie Grissell had a wretched day at that Plumpton meeting with three of his four runners falling, including Le Chat Noir who overjumped the second fence in the Hassocks Handicap Chase.

This talented nine-year-old quickly reappears in the Canterbury Handicap Chase at Folkestone and, if he settles early on, could reward at decent odds.

Richard Rowe has made a fine start to his training career and Great Aspect, who won for him over the course and distance last month, can follow up successfully in the Goodwins Handicap Hurdle.

Supple fighting to be fit in time for Zeta's Lad

By MICHAEL SEELY

ROBBIE Supple, injured in a fall at Plumpton on Monday, hopes to be passed fit in time to partner Zeta's Lad at Leopardstown on Sunday for John Upson's attempt to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup for the third consecutive year.

"I was only shaken and bruised, not concussed," said the jockey. "I am going to see my doctor and the boss tomorrow. I am confident that I'll be passed fit before Sunday."

Upson, however, has Richard Dunwoody standing by as a replacement.

Zeta's Lad, runner-up to Tom Trowbridge at Newbury last Friday, would hardly be in the same league as Nick The Brief, the trainer's previous winner of Ireland's premier conditions chase.

"We won't beat Carville's Hill, but we might get the better of the Irish horse," said Upson at Towcester yesterday after Tony Byrne, an Irish amateur, had successfully deputised for Supple on Leicester in the EBF Novices' Hurdle (Qualifier).

"Nick The Brief is having a year's rest as he strained a tendon last season," the trainer added.

The betting suggests that the result of Sunday's big race is a foregone conclusion. P J Hennessy, the Dublin bookmaker, makes Carville's Hill favourite at 9-4 on to repeat his 1989 win. They offer 10-1 against the other British runner, Gold Options, who will be competing to repeat Forgive N Forget's 1987 victory for Jimmy Fitzgerald and 33-1 Zeta's Lad.

The Sun Alliance Chase promises to be one of the most keenly contested races at the National Hunt Festival and Ladbrokes were prepared to offer 25-1 after Parson's

Thorns had just got the better of a desperate battle with Trublow for the Bluebell Novices' Chase.

The Charlie Brooks-trained chaser, an impressive winner of his previous two races, looked beaten before Graham Bradley drove the seven-year-old up to gain the day in the final strides.

At first sight I was depressed," said the trainer. "Graham said that the horse was never going. But Stan Mellor thinks a lot of the runner-up and Parson's Thorns definitely needs three miles."

Minnehoma and Mutare are Ladbrokes' 5-1 joint-favourites for the Sun Alliance.

General Idea, due to reappear at Leopardstown on Sunday, is a 7-1 chance. And Run For Free, a winner at Newton Abbot yesterday for Martin Pipe, is on offer at 14-1.

A likely winner of the Cheltenham Foxhunters was on view when Marcus Armitage rode that talented hunter chaser Teaplanter to a highly impressive victory in the John Wramble Memorial Challenge Trophy.



Supple: recovering from Plumpton fall

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
1.30 Edward Seymour.	1.30 Sikera.	2.30 Carobee.
2.00 Re-Release.	2.00 Re-Release.	3.30 Grange Brake.
2.30 Carobee.	2.30 Carobee.	
3.00 Monumental Lad.	3.00 Rosall Clump.	
3.30 Ballyanto.	3.30 Grange Brake.	
4.00 Comedy Road.	4.00 Comedy Road.	
4.30 STEEPLER JACK (nap).	4.30 Steeple Jack.	

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings 2.00 RE-RELEASE.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

1.30 ST MARTIN'S SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (E1,488: 2m) (11 runners)
1. 40254 EDWARD SEYMOUR 88F (W Jinks) W Jinks 5-11-12. Mr T Jinks (7) 66
2. 0995-05 CAPTAIN KRAYAN 126 (T Thompson) R Rowe 6-11-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 4-0385 TAYLORS CASTLE 7 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-12 (7m). L Dene (7) 66
4. 304P/05 SIKERA 80 (Mrs H Collins) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
5. 00006 QUINTA ROYALE 8F (P Hobbie) P Hobbie 6-10-7. L Dene (7) 66
6. 00000 ENCHANTING HASTY 8 (P Hobbie) P Hobbie 6-10-4. L Dene (7) 66
7. 302083 DANING LEBRON 7 (W Jinks) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
8. 1230-00 BABA'S LADY 12 (P Hobbie) P Hobbie 6-10-3. L Dene (7) 66
9. 300-004 HARVEST SPLENDOR 7 (P Hobbie) P Hobbie 6-10-2. L Dene (7) 66
10. P-0000 DEPARTURE 22 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-1. L Dene (7) 66
11. P-0000 CHINA'S WAY 10 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 11-10 Re-Release, 5-2 Edward Seymour, 5-2 Sikera, 10-1 Daning Legend, 14-1 others.

2.00 TATTERSALL MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: E1,448: 2m 4f) (14 runners)
1. F34-F31 NORTH JINCKS 20 (J Smith) R Doble 9-11-1. R Doble (7) 66
2. 553-438 APRIL'S BABY 76 (C Gifford) M C Curre 9-10-1. R Doble (7) 66
3. FR-008F BITTER BACK 4 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. R Doble (7) 66
4. 0-00000 DANING LEBRON 7 (W Jinks) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
5. 000000 ESCRIBANA 13 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
6. 70P-001P KITCHI 10 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
7. 000000 LASTING MEMORIES 11 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
8. 00-0000 MARY GILL 26 (T Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
9. 11-00000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
10. 000000 STRIKE A CHORD 26 (T Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
11. 000000 SWISS PRINCESS 7 (Mrs E Martin) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 4F5 TURISH STAR 11 (W Jinks) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 11-10 Re-Release, 5-2 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

2.30 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: Div 1, E1,670: 2m) (18 runners)
1. 181 CAROBEE 28 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 212000 MONUMENTAL LAD 9 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
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10. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
11. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 2-1 Carobee, 5-1 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

3.00 LOWESMORE HANDICAP CHASE (E2,427: 2m) (12 runners)
1. 0001-04F BELSTONE FOX 54 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 212000 MONUMENTAL LAD 9 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
5. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
6. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
7. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
8. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
9. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
10. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
11. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 2-1 Carobee, 5-1 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

3.30 ASTWOOD HANDICAP HURDLE (E2,318: 3m) (26 runners)
1. 130-000 RASTANORA 14 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 40254 EDWARD SEYMOUR 88F (W Jinks) W Jinks 5-11-12. Mr T Jinks (7) 66
3. 0995-05 CAPTAIN KRAYAN 126 (T Thompson) R Rowe 6-11-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 4-0385 TAYLORS CASTLE 7 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-12 (7m). L Dene (7) 66
5. 304P/05 SIKERA 80 (Mrs H Collins) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
6. 00006 QUINTA ROYALE 8F (P Hobbie) P Hobbie 6-10-7. L Dene (7) 66
7. 00000 ENCHANTING HASTY 8 (P Hobbie) P Hobbie 6-10-4. L Dene (7) 66
8. 302083 DANING LEBRON 7 (W Jinks) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
9. 1230-00 BABA'S LADY 12 (P Hobbie) P Hobbie 6-10-3. L Dene (7) 66
10. P-00004 HARVEST SPLENDOR 7 (P Hobbie) P Hobbie 6-10-2. L Dene (7) 66
11. P-0000 DEPARTURE 22 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-1. L Dene (7) 66
12. P-0000 CHINA'S WAY 10 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 11-10 Re-Release, 5-2 Edward Seymour, 5-2 Sikera, 10-1 Daning Legend, 14-1 others.

4.00 ABERLEY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (E2,755: 2m 4f) (17 runners)
1. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
2. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
5. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
6. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
7. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
8. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
9. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
10. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
11. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 11-10 Re-Release, 5-2 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

4.30 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: Div 1, E1,666: 2m) (12 runners)
1. 181 CAROBEE 28 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 212000 MONUMENTAL LAD 9 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
5. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
6. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
7. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
8. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
9. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
10. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
11. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 2-1 Carobee, 5-1 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

4.40 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: Div 1, E1,666: 2m) (12 runners)
1. 181 CAROBEE 28 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 212000 MONUMENTAL LAD 9 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
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10. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
11. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 2-1 Carobee, 5-1 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

4.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: Div 1, E1,666: 2m) (12 runners)
1. 181 CAROBEE 28 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 212000 MONUMENTAL LAD 9 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
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11. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 2-1 Carobee, 5-1 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

5.00 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: Div 1, E1,666: 2m) (12 runners)
1. 181 CAROBEE 28 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 212000 MONUMENTAL LAD 9 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
5. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
6. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
7. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
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10. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
11. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 2-1 Carobee, 5-1 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

5.10 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: Div 1, E1,666: 2m) (12 runners)
1. 181 CAROBEE 28 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 212000 MONUMENTAL LAD 9 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
5. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
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10. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
11. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 2-1 Carobee, 5-1 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

5.20 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: Div 1, E1,666: 2m) (12 runners)
1. 181 CAROBEE 28 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 212000 MONUMENTAL LAD 9 (D Gifford) P Hobbie 6-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
3. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
4. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
5. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
6. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
7. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
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11. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
12. 000000 RE-RELEASE 5 (S Gifford) C Gifford 9-10-0. L Dene (7) 66
BETTING: 2-1 Carobee, 5-1 North Jinks, 5-1 Bitter Back, 10-1 Kitchi Koo, 14-1 others.

5.30 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: Div 1, E1,666: 2m) (12 runners)
1. 181 CAROBEE 28 (D Gifford) M C Curre 9-11-0. R Doble (7) 66
2. 21

Ginther's hopes dashed by a fall

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN MERIBEL



THE opening exchanges in women's Alpine skiing take place here today but, even before the first of five gold medals is contested, Vreni Schneider has shown how valuable a wise old head can be. Schneider's decision to skip the combined event for fear of crashing on the downhill looked a shrewd one yesterday.

Schneider, the Swiss who along with Carole Merle, of France, is trying to stem the tide of youth at these Games, chose to preserve her health for the defence of her slalom and giant slalom titles. And, in final practice yesterday for the combined, the risks she had chosen to avoid were as evident as the mountain snow.

No fewer than five skiers fell on the Le Davers section of the combined downhill course, a shortened version of the downhill piste proper.

One, Sabine Ginther, the title favourite from Austria, suffered a back injury which put her out for the rest of the season. Gone were Ginther's hopes of a double in the combined and the downhill.

The combined competition, comprising downhill today and slalom tomorrow, favours the downhillers because of the testing nature of today's section. For this reason, Ginther, aged 22 and winner of the most recent World Cup downhill, in Grindelwald, had looked a strong candidate whereas Schneider had felt that, however well she may have skied the downhill, she would still have had too much to make up in the slalom.

Now Ginther is out the advantage passes to Germany. In Katja Seizinger and Miriam Vogt, Germany has two downhillers in form while the Swiss, their cowbells quiet after neither Franz Heinzer (downhill) nor Paul Accola (combined) brought expected men's golds, hope Chantal Bourdissen will cheer them. But, though Bourdissen is combined world champion, this is not her kind of downhill.

Nor will it be in the downhill proper on Saturday. The women have long been arguing for more demanding tests of downhill prowess and now they have got one. It com-

pires length (at 2,705m, it is longer than usual) with sudden drops and sharp turns; and there is no flat. "We have never seen anything like it," Paul Major, the chief United States coach, said.

Seizinger will start as favourite but the outcome could even go the way of the men's downhill. Patrick Ordlieb won on Sunday without ever having succeeded in a World Cup race and Vogt could do the same. Her form has been going uphill, reaching a peak second place in Grindelwald. She has also been well placed in all three training runs, one on the downhill course and two on the combined downhill course.

Locally, interest centres on Merle. The one prominent skier who, aged 28, is older than Schneider, Merle carries the burden of expectation that she will bring France its first Olympic women's Alpine gold medal for 24 years.

Merle is the favourite for the super giant slalom next Sunday. Last year she said goodbye to life as a single woman and to nagging injury; she married her physiotherapist. She has shown strongly in super giant slaloms and giant slaloms this season, winning her last three races in the latter. But Schneider, aged 27, stands in her way in the giant slalom next Wednesday.

If Schneider wins she will set herself up for the double for the second successive Olympics in the final event, the slalom, next Thursday. If she falls in both you will be able to get your Swiss cowbells here.

Petra Kronberger has done nothing in training to suggest that she is out of the trough of form but one name to emerge as a potential menace is Svetlana Gladisheva, of Russia.



End of a dream: Ginther is comforted by a course worker after crashing out of the women's combined

RESULTS

Alpine skiing
Men's combined (Val d'Isère)

FINAL RESULTS: 1. J. Polig (Austria), 1:45.42; 2. G. Merle (France), 1:45.42; 3. P. Accola (Switzerland), 1:45.42; 4. J. Accola (Switzerland), 1:45.42; 5. M. Schneider (Switzerland), 1:45.42; 6. V. Schneider (Switzerland), 1:45.42; 7. P. Major (USA), 1:45.42; 8. P. Ordlieb (Austria), 1:45.42; 9. P. Vogt (Germany), 1:45.42; 10. P. Seizinger (Germany), 1:45.42; 11. P. Kronberger (Austria), 1:45.42; 12. P. Gladisheva (Russia), 1:45.42; 13. P. Heinzer (Austria), 1:45.42; 14. P. Bourdissen (France), 1:45.42; 15. P. Accola (Switzerland), 1:45.42; 16. P. Schneider (Switzerland), 1:45.42; 17. P. Merle (France), 1:45.42; 18. P. Polig (Austria), 1:45.42; 19. P. Ordlieb (Austria), 1:45.42; 20. P. Vogt (Germany), 1:45.42; 21. P. Seizinger (Germany), 1:45.42; 22. P. Kronberger (Austria), 1:45.42; 23. P. Gladisheva (Russia), 1:45.42; 24. P. Heinzer (Austria), 1:45.42; 25. P. Bourdissen (France), 1:45.42; 26. P. Accola (Switzerland), 1:45.42; 27. P. Schneider (Switzerland), 1:45.42; 28. P. 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Few could tame the brutality of the animal

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent,
looks at the career of Mike Tyson,
the former world heavyweight champion
who has been found guilty of rape

As in boxing decisions, Tyson's conviction for rape will leave plenty of room for argument whether or not justice was done. Which of us can know for certain about what exactly happened in that hotel room in Indianapolis? We in Britain, know only too well about wrongful convictions.

If the decision is a blow for women, who for too long have been the victims of Tyson's brutishness, it is a bitter blow for boxing. If Tyson's appeal fails, the sport will be the poorer for his absence. He is one of the world's great heavyweights and is still regarded by many as the people's champion.

Tyson secured a place among the greats by becoming the youngest heavyweight champion when, at the age of 20, he knocked out Trevor Berbick in the second round in 1986 to win the World Boxing Council title. Eight months later, he had become the undisputed world champion.

Entering the ring with black trunks and shoes and without a robe or socks, Tyson caught the attention of the boxing world by knocking out his first 19 opponents in all he knocked out 37 of his 42 opponents.

Had he been allowed to continue, he might have become the greatest and richest heavyweight of all time. He has so much ability that, even if he were to take up his career after an eight-year absence, he could still have the potential, at 33, to lay claim to that honour.

He is only heavyweight of

the world class. The others, including Evander Holyfield, the world champion, are little more than second-division men.

If Bob Arum — the arch rival of Don King, Tyson's promoter — felt Tyson's departure meant absolutely nothing to boxing because "in some way it helps boxing by eliminating someone who is perceived to be a bad apple in the mix", Seth Abraham, the head of Time Warner Sports, saw it differently.

There would never be a single attraction like Tyson, who is a huge draw no matter the quality of the opponent. "He is a legitimate cash register," Abraham said. Tyson earned \$75 million (about £42 million) in five years and was also a source of money for his opponents.

Arum said: "There's enough big fights: George Foreman-Holyfield [in a rematch] is big enough. There will be more big combinations in the years ahead."

But that is only the view of an interested party. Really, without Tyson, the life will go out of a division that has little talent beyond the first four.

Tyson's departure would have "the most profound effect on the heavyweight championship, and that connects with the other divisions," Abraham said. "As

the heavyweight division goes, so goes boxing."

The fans wanted to see "the baddest man on the planet". As Dr Bill Hoffman, a psychiatrist in Providence, Rhode Island, said: "Tyson is a winner. Tyson is more blatantly self-serving and aggressive than we are."

"He has been fascinating because he's brutal and successful with it. He's brutal in and out of the ring. We fear that naked aggression; that aggression and force. Tyson has that pure animal brutality in the ring."

The trouble with Tyson was that he never grew up in the real world. He remained a street kid who always gravitated to the dark places.

As D'Amato, the famous manager-trainer who took him from a juvenile centre and taught him to box, and his team — Jim Jacobs, Bill Cayton, Kevin Rooney and others — kept him on a tight rein, all the time instilling the philosophy of boxing success in him and, from time to time, baling him out of scrapes.

But after Jacobs' death, Tyson — the then undisputed world champion — dismissed Cayton and Rooney and joined up with King, who knew little about the tech-

nique of boxing and even less about disciplining men like Tyson. There was no one to talk to him about the philosophy of D'Amato.

He even lost the friendship of his confidant, Jose Torres, the former world light-heavyweight champion and also a D'Amato boy, who would sit at the ringside and shout out numbers of the D'Amato punch combinations. King took Tyson back to his room. He found Christianity and self-destruction.

Despite being surrounded by a posse of trainers, sub-trainers, minders and cut-men, Tyson never found the closeness of the old team and remained, in effect, his own manager, trainer and strategist.

His corner was too afraid to pull him up and he gradually forgot his boxing. He believed he only needed to look at his opponents to blow them away. His enemies have tended to rubbish him since his failure against James "Buster" Douglas but the bout must be seen as an aberration.

Jay Bright, a Tyson cornerman who took over after Tyson dismissed Rooney three years ago, probably had the right answer when he said: "The trouble with Tyson was he believed the things people wrote and said about him."

"Sometimes, your greatest strength can be your greatest weakness," Bright, when asked to explain that defeat, said. "Michael was sometimes deluded because he thought he could just go out there and use his power. The

whole world made Michael into Godzilla. They thought all he had to do was look at an opponent and they'd be pulverised. No human being can live up to that image."

Tyson neglected the basics in training. "It's the small things, not the big things, that make the difference between an ordinary fighter and a great fighter," Bright said. "Why should you do the small things when you've been getting away with it for years?"

Perhaps that is also the explanation for his behaviour at the beauty show at Indianapolis, when he gave the contestants the "once over", getting away with it for years. Perhaps, too, he thought he had only to look at them and they would jump into bed with him. He has to learn the basics of behaviour outside the ring.

The irony of his conviction is that Tyson admired the uncompromising brutality of Tony Ayala, a tearaway light-middleweight. "Tony Ayala, wow! He's ferocious," he once told a friend. Ayala is now in Jersey State Prison doing 35 years for sexually assaulting a woman.

Having done six years, Ayala's observation on Tyson before the trial appears deeply relevant. "He needs to go into his history and find out how he relates to what is going on in the present," he said. "Like Mike Tyson, my problems didn't begin and end with the last incident. It was the culmination: a build-up, so to speak."



Hate and aggression: Tyson moves forward with a fearsome grimace

RUGBY UNION

Italy hold off late revival

By CHRIS THAU

DESPITE being without two of their key players, Ivan Francescato and Massimo Bonomi, the half backs, Italy survived a spirited Spanish revival to win a thrilling encounter in the Fira championship.

Italy were outscored by four tries to three in their 22-21 victory in the first division of the Continental competition, and could be grateful for the wayward goal-kicking of Miguel Sanchez. The Spanish stand-off half failed with all his conversion attempts but one, and landed only one penalty out of five.

The kicking of his Italian counterpart, Diego Dominguez, was equally erratic, but the centre managed to drop a goal near the end of the first half, which had been dominated by Italy, to give his side a seemingly unassailable 18-point lead.

In the second half, however, the concentration of the Italians slipped and the Spaniards scored two tries in succession through Aluna Azkargorta, early in the second half, and another two by their inspired winger, Cecilia Marcello Cusina. The Italian said: "Basically we played very well in the first half; it was good-quality rugby. After half-time the players started to play individually in the old Italian fashion. They seemed to think they could score by just running at the Spanish. Well, it was a rude awakening, and thankfully

we won due to a late try by Ventura."

Cusina himself scored a try immediately after the kick-off, which was followed by another, scored by Troiani, who was playing at stand-off half.

The Italians have left Madrid for Tarbes, in France, where they take on France A on Saturday. This explains why France have announced a different side for their game against England B from the team which played against Scotland B ten days ago. All those players have been promoted to the France A side.

The game in Tarbes is going to be a different story for the Italians, Cusina believes. "In a way it was better for us to win by one point than by 40 points, as it looked at some stage. We played for only 40 minutes. If we want to win against France, and we certainly want to, we will have to do that for 80 minutes. We are capable of beating the French and we are confident," he said.

The Italian coach, Bernard Fourcade, a Frenchman originally from Tarbes, is equally confident. "It was a good first half and also a good result. But then we started doing absurd things in the second half."

"It's a long cry from the good performance against Russia in November. Tarbes is my birthplace and we all want to do well. I believe that we can win," he said.

FOOTBALL

Albanians in a crisis

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THIRAS: Albanian football is reported to be suffering a crisis with scores of players leaving the country, headed for Turkish, Greek and Romanian clubs, according to the national team coach, Bekush Birce.

"We are hardly able to play out the championships," Birce said. He said most first division teams were fielding sides consisting mostly of reserves. Birce has attributed the blame on Albania's post-communist economic crisis which has left the country strapped for cash and dependent on humanitarian aid to feed its three million people.

"This is a national hemorrhage which has affected football as well," Birce said. He said most Albanian clubs had lost players to clubs abroad, but the home clubs had received nothing from the transfers which had been organized either privately or through sports management entrepreneurs in foreign countries.

"Greek, Romanian and Turkish clubs have not yet paid us," the coach said. He made special reference to two players from the Thirasa club, 17 Nenori and Florina Riza and Krenar Alimchani, who are now playing for the Turkish side Turkus Adana.

"We have appealed to Uefa, European football's governing body, but have received no help until now," Birce said, adding that foreign clubs were also not abiding by the practice of allowing Albanian players to return home to play in the national side should they be selected. "They

(the foreign clubs) should be fined, but we are powerless to do anything about it," the coach, aged 50, complained.

Emin Barce, economic secretary of the Albanian Sports Committee, a government body which still controls sports clubs, said he was pessimistic about the chances of the situation improving this year.

A major problem is that clubs still at least officially come under the central government and have as yet received no powers of autonomy. Following the practice common in other former communist countries, players still officially "work" for either a government body or a state-run factory, but in reality are free to pursue their sporting careers.

The secretary of the Albanian Football Association, Fatmir Frasherli, has also estimated a loss of sponsorship revenue to the federation of around \$250,000 as a result of the cancelled European Championships qualifier with Spain last year. He said an approach had been made to Uefa about compensation for the cancellation but it had not replied to the request.

The national side opted not to play in the Albanian capital, citing political instability.

At the Portsmouth manager, Jim Smith, has taken two Polish internationals on a week's trial in a bid to boost his club's faltering promotion challenge. The pair, both midfield players, are Michael Gebura, aged 27, from Lech Poznan, and Leszek Pisz, 25,

of Legia Warsaw. The players are training at Fratton Park while Smith considers whether to make a bid.

Dutch football officials have settled their battle for the services of coach Johan Cruyff with Barcelona. The Dutch Football Association wanted Cruyff to guide their World Cup qualifying campaign from next year but Barcelona have won the right to retain him an extra season.

Cruyff will now take the helm during the 1994 finals — providing they qualify from the same group as England. Dick Advocaat, the national team assistant, will take over in the meantime from Rinus Michels after this summer's European Championship finals.

At Brussels: The Nigerian international, John Ehin Ehin, tested positive for banned amphetamines after a Belgian first division match involving his club, Lieke, last November. Both samples revealed traces of amphetamines. Ehin will probably be suspended.

At Amsterdam: The former England manager, Bobby Robson, was taken to hospital yesterday with an intestinal complaint.

The PSV Eindhoven coach, aged 58, may have to undergo surgery, but is expected to resume his duties in three to four weeks. His assistant, the former Danish international, Frank Arnesen, will be in charge of the Dutch champions during Robson's absence.

Robson will leave PSV in June when his two-year contract expires.

BOXING

Barrett to meet the third man

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAT Barrett, robbed of a WBO welterweight title challenge this week, met with more frustration yesterday. The substitute, Tek Nikalankene, has also been pulled out of tonight's bout at Wembley's Grand Hall so a German-based Chilean, Salvadore Yanez, has been lined up instead to meet the Mancunian.

If a deal with Yanez is reached, the British Boxing Board of Control will need to approve the contest. Barrett was paired in a ten-round meeting with Nikalankene after the WBO champion from Ohio, Manning Galloway, withdrew from his title defence with a wrist injury. But the French Federation have banned the former European champion.

"It's good to see a world title fight in Scotland again," said Duff. "I promoted the last one with Jim Watt and I want to promote the next one with Gary Jacobs."

Jacobs and Nottingham's Bryan met four years ago this month — also in Glasgow — when they were soundly out as possible opponents.

Dennie Mancini, the agent, also drew blanks in Italy, Belgium, Holland and Spain in the effort to give Barrett a night's work before Yanez emerged. Yanez had three of his 23 contests (19 wins) in 1991, and in his last bout lost to the useful IBF inter-continental champion, Angel Hernandez.

Robson will leave PSV in June when his two-year contract expires.

Duff, yesterday promised Scotland another world title bout in the near future — "if Gary Jacobs can dispose of Del Bryan next week. The Glaswegian, Jacobs, meets the holder, Bryan, for the British welterweight championship at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre on February 20.

Duff is so enthusiastic about the prospects for the Scot that he is already talking about a shot at the WBC title. Duff's last promotion in Scotland was Jim Watt's successful contest against Howard Davis at Ibrox 11 years ago. Since then, the boxing scene north of the border had been quiet until the emergence of Pat Clinton, who next month fights for the WBO flyweight crown.

"It's good to see a world title fight in Scotland again," said Duff. "I promoted the last one with Jim Watt and I want to promote the next one with Gary Jacobs."

Jacobs and Nottingham's Bryan met four years ago this month — also in Glasgow — when they were soundly out as possible opponents.

Duff said: "Gary can go on to considerably greater heights. I would like to see Gary fight American Maurice Blocker for the WBC welterweight crown, with Pat Barrett, winning the WBO version."

IN BRIEF

Runaway victory

Rolf Golz, of Germany, won the first stage of the Mediterranean Tour cycle race, the 154 kilometres from Perpignan to Beziers, yesterday. He finished an 22min 47sec ahead of Giovanni Fidarza, of Italy.

Bout postponed

Boxing: Donnie Hood's planned European bantamweight title bout has been delayed for a third time this year. Hood, aged 28, the WBC international champion, from Glasgow, was twice scheduled to face the leading contender Johnny Bredahl, from Denmark for the vacant crown, but the Scandinavian has had sponsorship problems and the meeting will have to wait for at least another month.

Rankings upset

Tennis: Lizzie Jeffs and Jane Wood upset the rankings to move into the quarter-finals of the LTA women's satellite at Swindon yesterday. Jeffs, a 15-year-old qualifier from Banbury, knocked out Loredana Bujor, from Romania, 6-4, 6-1, while Wood, aged 23, from Enfield, ousted the No. 7 seed, Amy Van Buren, of The Netherlands, 6-4, 6-2.

High hopes

Racing: Flight Lieutenant, Philip Mitchell's American triple crown entry, should open his account, under Bruce Raymond, in the £5,000 Prix du Logis du Pin over a mile at Cagnes-sur-Mer in the south of France today.

TENNIS

Edberg struggles for first-round victory

Brussels: Stefan Edberg, who aims to regain the world No. 1 ranking from Jim Courier, had an unconvincing win over Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, in the first round of the Belgian indoor tournament yesterday.

The Swede, a wild card entry but the top seed, struggled with his volley strokes and returns of service before prevailing 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Edberg, who meets Jan Siemerink, of The Netherlands, in the second round, lost the No. 1 ranking to Courier, of the United States, last week. Courier, seeded second in the \$800,000 event, plays his first-round match against Fabrice Santoro, of France, today.

ATP tour officials said Edberg needed to reach the final if he was to stand a chance of reclaiming the No. 1 spot. If Edberg beat Courier in the final, the Swede would still not be sure of leapfrogging to the top. All would depend on bonus points accumulated in previous rounds.

Edberg said it took him a

while yesterday to adjust to the surface. "I had a few problems to find the timing," he said. "But I thought Bruguera played quite well."

Patrick McEnroe, of the United States, relied on his superior service to beat last year's runner-up, Andrei Cherkasov, of the CIS, 6-4, 7-6. McEnroe, who reached the semi-finals of last year's Australian Open, moved up a gear when trailing 4-1 in the first set, to win the next seven games. He then held on to win the tie-break, 7-4.

Siemerink earned his meeting with Edberg by beating Arnaud Boetsch, of France, 6-3, 7-6. Eduardo Masso, a Belgian qualifier, overwhelmed Thierry Champion, of France, 6-2, 6-1 to set up a second-round tie with Karel Novacek, of Czechoslovakia.

Novacek beat Masso 6-3, 6-2 in last month's Davis Cup tie between Czechoslovakia and Belgium. "But I stand a better chance here," Masso said. "I've already played four matches on this surface. I've got nothing to lose."

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: UAU 1, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 2, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 3, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 4, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 5, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 6, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 7, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 8, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 9, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 10, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 11, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 12, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 13, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 14, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 15, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 16, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 17, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 18, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 19, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 20, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 21, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 22, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 23, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 24, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 25, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 26, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 27, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 28, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 29, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 30, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); UAU 31, 1-0 (Goal: Sam, 55min); 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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12 1992

Athletes' doping controversy continues

Official calls for Krabbe to miss Olympic Games

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A GERMAN sports official has entered the controversy surrounding the alleged doping irregularities by Katrin Krabbe and two other leading German athletes, Hans Evers, doping official for the German sports federation (DSB), said in Cologne yesterday they should not be selected for the Barcelona Olympics.

Evers suggested in a radio interview that Krabbe, the 100 and 200 metres world champion, Grit Breuer and Silke Möller could be dropped from the team rather than banned from competing. Asked if he was calling for the three not to be nominated for the Olympics, he replied: "It's a question of nomination, that's right. One must differentiate between banning and ... not nominating."

Evers said he believed the urine samples provided by the three at a meeting in South Africa had been tampered with. But he said it was unclear how the DSB would deal with the matter.

Krabbe, Breuer and Möller were suspended on Friday after doping experts in South Africa said the samples were suspicious. The ban was later lifted and the three ran in the German championships at the weekend.

The German Athletic Federation (DLV) ordered an investigation after a second specialist, Dr Manfred Donike, said all three samples had been provided by the same person.

Krabbe, though, has been left out of the German team to take part in the European indoor championships in Genoa between February 28 and March 1. Breuer, however, was named for the 200 metres.

Krabbe has insisted she is innocent. She told the newspaper, *Bild*: "I didn't take anything. I did not tamper with anything. I am innocent and am not going to let myself be punished for something I did not do."

Asked who might have an interest in altering the results of her tests, she said: "The number of people in the west who feel envy is very large. Because of the past, we East Germans are going to have to live with these suspicions until the end of our careers."

In the interview, released ahead of publication today, she said she did not know whether there had been sabotage but believed anything was possible. "I will show them all," she said when asked about her career prospects. "I will be even faster than last year."

Meanwhile, in Osaka, Japan, the world champions,

Sergei Bubka and Heike Henkel, both fell short in attempts to break their own world indoor records at an international meeting held yesterday.

Bubka, who set world records in Osaka in 1986, 1987 and 1989, went into the pole vault competition confident of a new best of 6.13 metres, one centimetre higher than his record set in Grenoble, France, last year.

Bubka easily cleared both 5.70 metres and then 5.90 metres with his first attempts. He then raised the bar to 6.13 but failed to get over, despite noisy support from the crowd.

Henkel, who set her women's high jump record of 2.07 metres in Karlsruhe, Germany, on Saturday, beat her rival, Stefka Kostadinova, of Bulgaria, with the bar at 2.03 metres. The German, aged 27, then tried but failed to clear 2.08. Frankie Fredericks, the 200 metres silver medal winner at last year's world championships in Tokyo, upset the 100 metres bronze medal winner, Dennis Mitchell, to win the 60 metres event.

His time of 6.53sec, a personal best, was 0.08sec outside the indoor world record set by Andre Cason in Ghent, Belgium, last month.

Results, page 31



Champion in the making: Josef Pögl makes a colourful sight on the descent to his first medal, an Olympic gold, in the men's combined at Val d'Isère. The holder, Hubert Strolz, skidded off course. Games reports, page 30. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Lewis may be winner in the Tyson saga

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of the world heavyweight boxing championship returning to Britain this year, after 93 years, looks distinctly brighter after Mike Tyson's conviction for rape.

With Tyson effectively out of the world rankings, Lennox Lewis, the British and European champion, who is No. 3 in the ratings, hopes to challenge Evander Holyfield, the world champion, in late summer. Lewis's commercial manager, Roger Lewis, flew to New York on Monday for talks with Seth Abraham, the head of Time-Warner Sports, the parent company of HBO, the United States' biggest cable channel.

Levit said before leaving: "If Tyson is convicted, Lewis will have one major fight around June, against Foreman. Mercer, Holmes or Witherspoon, to encourage pay-per-view in America and then challenge Holyfield for the world title later this year. Lewis is keen to have a fight to leave the American public with a good impression."

Lewis was not impressive in outpointing Levi Bullup earlier this month but he looked good against Tyrell Biggs. After seeing Holyfield in trouble against Bert Cooper on the same bill in Atlanta, he believes he can pull it off.

Levit is also likely to have talks with Holyfield's managers, Dan and Lou Duva, who are planning for their boxer to meet Riddick Bowe in April and Holmes or Foreman in May or June. Lou Duva said Holyfield would have no regrets if he never met Mike Tyson in the ring. Holyfield and Tyson were due to meet last November, but that bout was called off after Tyson suffered a rib injury.

The court verdict "just means that Mike Tyson's fans won't be able to see him fight for a while", said Duva, who spent much of last year fighting off a move

by Don King, Tyson's manager, and the World Boxing Council (WBC) to strip Holyfield of the WBC crown for not defending against Tyson first, after lifting the title from James "Buster" Douglas.

The WBC and the World Boxing Association (WBA) have not decided. Tyson's position as the No. 1 challenger. The WBC has canvassed the views of its members but the vice-president, Eduardo Llanusa, said yesterday from Mexico City: "We have not taken any official position today. We are waiting to see what happens on March 6 in the appeal. After that the committee will have to meet to discuss the position."

However, the WBA's legal adviser, James Binns, said that, most probably, Tyson would be removed from the ratings as soon as the executive committee meet. "It does not matter that he is appealing. It could go on for months. The judge could even revoke his bail and keep him in jail."

Regardless of what the world boxing bodies decide, it is unlikely that Tyson will be able to box anywhere in the United States. The influential Nevada State Athletic Commission has already suspended his licence. If his appeals fails, the licence will be revoked. Luther Mack, the chairman of

the commission, expects other state organisations to do the same.

"At this point he would not be allowed to box," Mack said. "Even if he is successful in his appeal, the board would have to look very carefully at his application. According to our rules a boxer must not bring the sport into disrepute. Las Vegas is the boxing capital of the world. We have to clean up the sport."

Mack said that while he had not talked to Randy Gordon, the chairman of Tyson's home body, the New York State Athletic Commission, he believed that Gordon would also take the same view. Gordon was not available for comment yesterday.

King's position in the world heavyweight scene has been weakened. But the man, who had a controlling hand from when he first promoted George Foreman and Muhammad Ali in Zaire in 1974 to when Tyson lost his title two years ago, is far from finished. He has Donovan "Razor" Rudock boxing for him and the Canadian, who gave Tyson so much trouble, must be favoured to beat Holyfield when given the chance.

All the cards appear to be in the hands of King's rivals, the Dumas, at the moment, but the "only in America" man has taken the precaution of signing up as many leading heavyweights as possible, including Oliver McCall, Greg Page, Tony Tucker, Bert Cooper, James "Bonecrusher" Smith and Francesco Damiani. This could make it difficult for contenders for Holyfield's title to get meaningful matches and even for Frank Bruno to find suitable name opponents to help him move up the ratings.

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Revenge motive, page 12
Boxing's loss, page 31



Lewis: title hope

Bennett's regrets are accepted by New Zealand TV

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN DUNEDIN

BOB Bennett, manager of England's cricket tour, last night defused one sensitive issue and prepared to confront another. He issued regrets to the television company whose cameraman was involved in the fracas after David Lawrence's injury on Monday, and did not discount taking disciplinary action against his own team manager, Micky Stewart.

The apology, couched in general terms, was issued in a letter faxed to John Knowles, head of sport at Television New Zealand. It referred to the widely-screened scenes in which Stewart abused a cameraman attempting to film close-ups of Lawrence, being stretched off the Wellington pitch in agony.

Bennett's letter, drafted only after a day of telephone calls with the television company executives, said: "The England party very much regrets the events surrounding David's injury which have caused offence."

It adds: "It is not my role to apportion blame but I am sure that in the cold light of day, many of those involved would have acted with much greater restraint. The situation was extremely emotional."

Bennett later confirmed that he had spoken individually to Stewart and to two players, Jack Russell and Ian Botham.

He was still considering whether any disciplinary action was necessary.

Russell is Lawrence's close friend and he held his hand all the way off the ground. So incensed was he by the cameraman's attentions that he pursued him, unwisely, up a flight of steps to stop him filming. Botham's involvement was purely verbal.

"We have contributed to some extent towards an unpleasant incident and for our part in it we are saying sorry," Bennett said later.

It was a fraught day for Bennett. On his first tour he has handled a delicate problem capably, though with hindsight he would have been better advised to make his peace with the television station on Monday evening.

Their bulletins yesterday indicated they would pursue the matter, possibly legally, until they received an apology. When it finally arrived, after a lengthy facsimile breakdown here in Dunedin, Knowles issued his own statement accepting that the issue was closed.

There was no suggestion that Peter Burge, the match referee, intended to take the matter further.

Meanwhile, England had no selection problems for today's limited over international at Carlsbrook, only in as much as they had only 11 fit men. From the 13 who travelled on from Wellington, DeFreitas and Fairbrother were both ruled out by niggling injuries.

Tour review, page 28
Lawrence's courage, page 28

Gloucestershire's plans in disarray

BY MARTIN SEARBY

TONY Wright, the Gloucestershire captain, yesterday described the loss of David Lawrence for most of next season as "a nightmare", having laid plans for Lawrence and the West Indian, Courtney Walsh, to lead a revival in the county's cricket fortunes.

"After all the years we have invested in David it is a major blow to know that, even by his optimistic expectations, he won't be available until mid-June," Wright said.

"He is simply irreplaceable. We thought, with some confidence, that with a more mature Lawrence in partnership with Walsh we would have one of the best new-ball attacks in the country. No one can estimate the psychological damage that may have been done. I think it is fair to say the whole county is devastated by the news."

Gloucestershire have invested an immense amount of time and coaching in Lawrence, who in 1991 had his most effective season for the county and forced himself

back into the England side. Philip Robinson, the former Yorkshire batsman, has been told he has a strong case against the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) for restraint of trade. Counsel's advice is that the board would have difficulty defending its system of listing players according to whether or not they have been offered contracts.

But before applying to the High Court for a writ, Robinson's solicitor, John Mewies, is to ask the TCCB to review the situation which has the middle-order batsman as a list one player.

"The object is to gain freedom for Phil Robinson, not to embarrass the TCCB," Mewies said. "We have given notice of appeal against their decision but if that fails, or is ignored, we will certainly go ahead with the writ. Leading counsel has told us we have a good case with which to challenge the system."

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England must run, page 27

Directors aid Aldershot

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

ALDERSHOT's survival prospects improved yesterday when their £1 million debt was reduced by a third after the directors agreed to waive all financial claims against the fourth division club.

Steve Birley, the club secretary, said: "This is a magnificent gesture. We are not out of the woods yet, but we now have a real fighting chance."

Aldershot were widely expected to go out of business after last night's fourth division match at home to Gillingham, but there is now real hope that the club offers a sufficiently attractive proposition to persuade someone to step in and rescue them.

Birley said: "This move is seen as an opening of the door to anybody who wishes to put money into the company. The present directors do not want to be obstructive to new investors and will stand down from the board."

Steve Banks, a director of Aldershot, said: "I have spoken with and agreed with all the present directors. It seems the very least we can do and while people can ill-afford to write off sums of money, it is important the club survives."

"While previous generosity

and help must not be ignored by the club, I would call for any other creditors and loan holders to take similar action in order for Aldershot to continue. Aldershot has immense possibilities of which new investors will be made aware."

Stoy and Hayward, the club's proposed administrators, last week told the 65-year-old club that it was insolvent and trading illegally. The players have not been paid for more than six weeks — a repeat of the scenario two years ago when they went ten weeks without salary cheques — and the club's bank accounts have been frozen by the High Court.

"We need a minimum of £25,000 to pay the players," Birley said. Once their wages have been met, Aldershot will then have to find £150,000 owed to the Inland Revenue. It will have to be available by March 18, when they face a winding-up order.

Doncaster Rovers, themselves deeply in debt, offered to help with Aldershot's travel costs to the fourth division match on Saturday. "They intended they would be willing to help us get up there," Birley said.

Only two clubs have withdrawn from the Football League in mid-season. They were Wigan Borough, which sunk in October 1991 with debts of £20,000, and Accrington Stanley, which owed £62,000 in 1991.

The 18 senior Aldershot players have been training at home since last week because they cannot afford the petrol to drive to the Recreation Ground on a daily basis, and most have visited their banks and building societies in order to arrange loans.

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Rugby tour plan for Old Trafford

BY DAVID HANES
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF THE proposed four-match visit to England by South Africa's rugby union team next season reaches fruition, there is every prospect of one of their matches being played at a football stadium.

The Northern Division, who have already investigated the possibility of playing the 1993 New Zealand touring side at Old Trafford, are considering Manchester United's ground as a possible venue next season.

The prospective fixtures for the South Africans, though they have yet to be confirmed, would give each division of England a game: London

would host the international on November 14 and the South-West the B international, leaving the North and the Midlands as the other venues.

Each division would be able to capitalise on the surge of interest in the game after the World Cup. In the case of the North, whose top games have of late gone to Old Trafford, a football stadium would enable them to accommodate a far larger crowd while emphasising the absence of a natural rugby centre for the region.

Several months ago the divisional committee approached Martin Edwards, Manchester United's chairman, to sound out the possi-

bility of playing the All Blacks at Old Trafford, and were encouraged by the response. At the same time a sub-committee has been appointed to investigate a potential centre of excellence for the division.

"At the moment we're not competing with rugby league on an equal footing," John Burgess, the North's chairman, said. "They have the big grounds, particularly Wigan and Leeds. We need a successful divisional side and a ground as a focal point."

A planned tour to Namibia and Zimbabwe in August will help develop a competitive team, and a sub-committee has talked to the management of the Don Valley athletics stadium in Sheffield, as

well as Newcastle Gosforth and those involved in the proposed Headingley-Roundhay merger, whose ambition is to create a new Leeds club at a purpose-built stadium.

Burgess conceded the "probability" of putting a divisional match against the South Africans into a football stadium: "I'm concerned about putting northern players in the shop window," he said. "We have lost players to clubs in the south, not only because they are looking for jobs, but because they want to play for England. They don't believe they will get recognition if they stay in the north."

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England must run, page 27



WOMEN
Dawn French
on big women
and voluptuous
dressing

LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12 1992



PROPERTY
To rent or
buy: which
gives better
value now?

Come, friendly bombs . . .

With the Marsham Street towers condemned to dust by Michael Heseltine last week, Marcus Binney fixes his sights on other architectural eyesores that deserve a similar fate

With typical flamboyance, Michael Heseltine — having announced the demolition of the Department of the Environment building — has invited us all to play the game of "Come, friendly bombs..." — redirecting John Betjeman's wrath from Slough to the grotesque concrete monsters in London that most urgently deserve a dynamite exit. I began my awful odyssey on the Thames, approaching from the west, and thus saving the best (that is, the worst) for last.

First I would remove the brutal angular towers that loom over World's End in Chelsea. Then I would target the blocks that stand guard so uninspiringly at the north end of Vauxhall Bridge, followed by the whole row of faceless Sixties slabs opposite the Tate Gallery, pinpointing with special accuracy the hideous red-tiled Doulton House at the south end of Lambeth Bridge. It is possibly more clumsily joined to its neighbour than any building.

Next, I would flatten the outside modern block of St Thomas's Hospital by Westminster Bridge, which has as much character as a giant polystyrene packing case. This would allow us to reinstate the role of seven Victorian pavilions which originally stood there, as handsomely as a series of palaces on the Grand Canal.

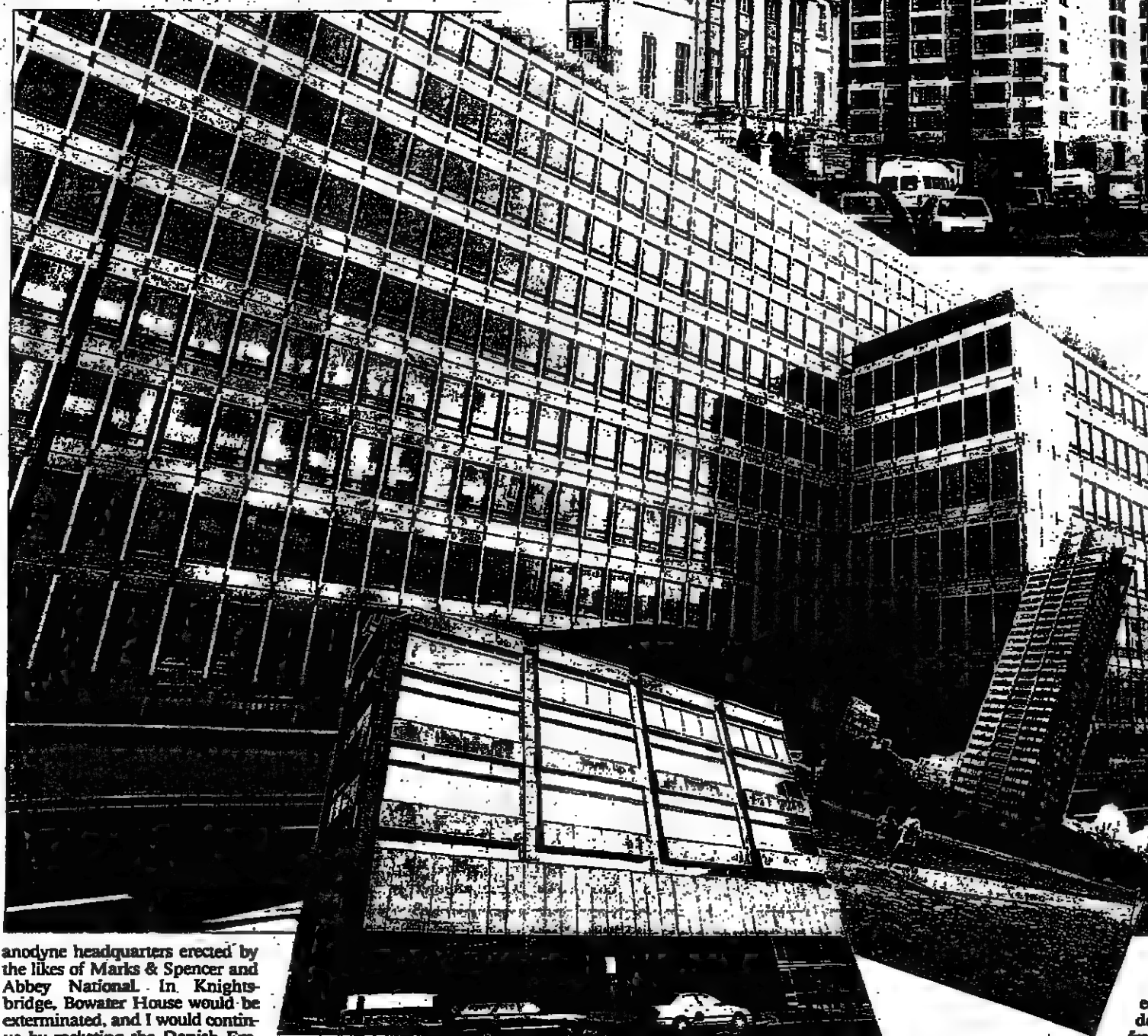
Time has not mellowed the clumsy silhouette of the Shell Centre, the architectural equivalent of a huge television in a reprover cabinet. It would crumple in my Brave New World, and be followed by the Hayward Gallery. The National Theatre can stay, but I would reserve a vast bag of flour to restore the pristine whiteness to its stained concrete walls.

I would be tempted to take a shot at the anemic slab of the Howard Hotel. Opposite the bloated block of Sea Containers House would certainly collapse into dust, even though the present river-front, complete with giant gold globes, is an improvement on the unfinished hotel carcass that stood here for many years.

At London Bridge, the Guy's Hospital tower would have to go. Across the river the giant cash register known as Mondial House would vanish in an instant. Sir Norman Foster's heliport, daringly cantilevered out over the Thames, would have disguised it, but was rejected by Heseltine.

Now I would be approaching a favourite target: the Tower Hotel at St Katharine's Dock. Here, the pleasure of destruction would be heightened by the thrill of revenge. This biliously coloured shambles of a building would instantly become a pillar of smoke, expiating the needless destruction of the magnificent series of Georgian dock warehouses that Thomas Telford, the great engineer, built here in the 1820s.

Other targets are even more obvious. I would gratefully sign a death warrant on the towers around the royal parks, the milk-carton of the Knightsbridge Barracks, the matchbox of the Royal Lancaster, the cardboard soufflé of the Home Office with its bulging top looming over St James's Park. Baker Street would transform with relish, levelling the series of



anodyne headquarters erected by the likes of Marks & Spencer and Abbey National. In Knightsbridge, Bowater House would be exterminated, and I would continue by rocketing the Danish Embassy in Sloane Street.

Now to Hyde Park Corner, to rub out the Inter-Continental Hotel which destroys the scale of Piccadilly and Apsley House. I would circle over St James's and fly up Victoria Street, aiming missiles at the banal boxes of the Department of Trade and Industry and New Scotland Yard. Nor would I spare the piles of eggboxes on either side of Westminster Cathedral, which for a while were an exciting novelty.

The great blocks looming over the south side of Cavendish Square — and thus dominating Oxford Circus — would go, as would the ugly slab behind the BBC which ruins the view of Nash's All Souls Church in Langham Place. I would press the firing button with special relish on the odious telephone exchange next to Bow Street police station. Why are buildings like this so detestable? Because, like the great slabs in Victoria Street, they were built on the assumption that all their older neighbours would come down. According to this brutal logic, there was no need to consider the context or attempt to harmonise with the character of the area. Once the blood is up, the temptation is to condemn every

high-rise block in London. Whatever the intrinsic merits of a select view, they have done infinite damage to almost every area of the city.

As is often said, London is a collection of villages. It has retained that feeling — despite all the pressures brought about by modern traffic and development — because so many parts of London are inward-looking enclaves where the onlooker can easily be quite unconscious of the rest of the city. Just one tower block, looming above the (much more acceptable) horizon of shops and houses in the immediate vicinity, can destroy this sense of an oasis. And the particular tragedy of London is that so many towers stand as single entities: there is no single high-rise area, as in an American city's "downtown".

Moreover, compared with the typical American downtown cluster of skyscrapers, London's towers are a miserable collection, almost all flat-topped, flat-sided, without any attempt at dramatic massing or silhouette. Canary Wharf at least has the merit of a distinctive pyramid top. The mirror glass which makes skyscrapers in summer climb so sleek also loses its allure in the soft London light.

Do any of London's towers deserve a reprieve? The Economist block in St James's already has a Grade II listing, rating it outstanding. But while it is undoubtedly a very clever solution to a tight urban site, its elevations are singularly joyless. Centrepiece, now its original notoriety has receded, has a growing band of followers, not least because floodlighting makes it so effective at night. What is appealing and unusual is the way the architect has introduced movement, with gently curving sides, indented ends, and zig-zag mullions like basketweave.

The Millbank Tower with its concave facades has a jewel-like elegance in certain lights. Even the Hilton Hotel is beginning to have a nostalgic period feel, like the fins of a Fifties Chevrolet. But the best tower by far is Commercial Union in the City, the one building in London that approaches the soaring height and elegance of New York's Seagram.

Even before Heseltine condemned Marsham Street, tower housing blocks were being regularly blown up by local authorities. But in central London the likelihood is that, if condemned, the

towers would be sold to developers for conversion as private apartments. Few owners would accept the potential loss of floor space represented by lower buildings. The Marsham Street site is, at any rate, a relatively rare case in central London: it has enough open space around to make it possible to house the same offices in conventional buildings along the street frontages.

The alternative is re-cladding — most obviously displayed on the shiny glass blocks beside Chiswick flyover. This kind of superficial glitz infuriates many architects and critics. But like the Observer building south of Chelsea Bridge it brightens up the City dramatically. More sophisticated re-cladding has transformed that Sixties slab, the Euston Tower. It now has the ultra-cool, all-white, high-tech look of a luxury liner, with an elegant bowed form.

The need is to single out individual eyesores; this should be done in the new local plans which every London borough now has to draw up. It can be achieved without damaging the commercial life of London. Terry Farrell's Embankment Place, over Charing Cross station, has shown it is possible to build large buildings on sensitive

sites which positively enhance the skyline.

At present, the most protected view in London is that of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral from King Henry's Mount in Richmond Park. Yet on many days the dome is barely visible without a telescope. All credit to those who jealously guard it, but let us have a Bill protecting the other fine vistas in London, beginning with the river, the royal parks and Hampstead Heath. Michael Heseltine has demonstrated the political capital to be made from taking the axe to London's eyesores. Time to be brutal with the Brutalists.

Clockwise from the left: the Department of Trade and Industry, the Intercontinental Hotel, the Royal Lancaster Hotel, the Home Office, the Knightsbridge Barracks and the Telephone Exchange, Bow Street

INSIDE

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Lumme, was I really counting sprouts?

I once heard a very scary story concerning a man who lived alone. I sometimes remember it late at night, and get so nervous that I chew the edge of the duvet. Invited to a friend's house for dinner, it seems, this man behaved in a perfectly normal, outgoing manner until the moment attention turned to the serving of Brussels sprouts — when he suddenly got strangely serious.

"One, two, three," he said to himself, as he carefully ladled the steaming veggies onto his plate. "Ha ha, oh yes. Four, five, six, seven." The hosts swapped glances, and shifted uncomfortably in their seats. "More sprouts, John?" asked the hostess, after a pause. At which their guest made a loud scoffing noise and stood up, violently pushing back his chair so that it rucked up the carpet. "Look," he said, "I've got seven sprouts. And forgive me for having two strong sturdy legs to stand on, but seven sprouts is the number of sprouts I always have."

No doubt there are many married people, too, who have strong feelings on the subject of sprouts. One recalls those famous cases of men murdering their wives (and getting off with a light fine and a reprimand) for serving up the incorrect number of roasties, or

putting the crust on the wrong place-mat. But it is sitting alone in the evening, I am sure, that encourages crankiness: start out with a harmless little tendency towards obsessive-compulsive behaviour, and within a few months of single life you are not only talking to the characters in *Brookside* but also getting domestic about vegetable-consumption and forming advanced crackpot theories on the nature of evil. Since nobody contradicts you (and the goldfish doesn't care) you easily convince yourself that you are "on the right lines".

Take the chap I met recently in a Pasadena cake shop. He seemed normal enough: just a bit over-keen for a chat. But then he mentioned that during his solitary hours he had given a lot of thought to the identity of the Antichrist, and had finally settled conclusively on Richard Branson. Everything pointed to it, he said. There's none so blind as those who will not see, etcetera. I thought he was joking, but it gradually dawned on me that he wasn't, and that moreover he was positioned between me and the door.

"Set in your ways" — that's what they call it when single people start getting things out of proportion. "Don't get set in your ways," it

SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss on
obsessions springing
from solitude



means: don't use a protractor when setting the coffee table at an angle to the wall; don't attach so much importance to changing the date on your kitchen calendar that you scot home from work mid-morning to check you've done it. The image conjured up is of a stupid-looking prehistoric animal sinking in mud and muttering, "Actually, I always buy the Radio Times on a Wednesday" and "I

asked for a kitchen towel, and she bought me yellow".

One need only spend half an hour in a supermarket to see where "getting set in your ways" can ultimately lead. There is a strange urban myth which says that in supermarkets single people strike up impromptu chats over the rindless streaky in the hope of finding a potential mate. In reality, however, they are more likely to start the conversation because rindless streaky has been occupying their thoughts in the evenings.

The trouble, of course, is to recognise when one's own reasonable preferences and quaint pet theories (attained through a painstaking process of trial and error) turn into pig-headed fixed ideas, or even dangerous obsessions. At what point does it "get out of hand"? I have a nasty suspicion that it is a phenomenon you can never observe in your own behaviour — one of those clever irregular verbs that invariably declines: I have rules about things; You are set in your ways; He thinks Richard Branson is the Antichrist.

I am assuming, I suppose, that a sane live-in partner prevents the escalation of this behaviour — rather as he might helpfully point out that your clothes are thick with cat-hair or that there is tooth-paste

up your nostrils. But is it worth taking on a live-in partner just for this function? I can't believe it is. Perhaps, instead, there ought to be some tall, supernatural protector for single people (along the lines of Superman) who could spot a burgeoning obsession with his X-ray vision and swoosh into our homes (with a fanfare) to prevent it from getting a grip.

Thus, just as you were preparing your solitary dinner and thinking "I don't know. Eight sprouts seems too many, yet six sprouts seems too few", he would suddenly appear at your side and dash the whole bag to the ground, releasing you from your terrible influence. "A close call," he twinkles (with arms akimbo and a smile reminiscent of Richard Branson's). "Lumme," you say, "was I really counting sprouts?" "It's all over now," he chuckles, patting you on the shoulder. "Just don't let it happen again, you hear?"

And as he turns horizontal and flies off through the kitchen door with a cheery salute, you slide down the wall to a sitting position and think — with ample justification — "I wonder if I'm spending too much time on my own?"

TOMORROW
Private Life John Diamond

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silence

INTERVIEW

Her genes are a perfect fit

Actress Natasha Richardson, daughter of Vanessa Redgrave and the film-maker Tony Richardson, talks to Lauris Morgan-Griffiths about family and career

At one time the mere mention of the family name would have resulted in a strong draught of cold air. Last week, however, Natasha Richardson was in London to lend moral support to her mother, Vanessa Redgrave (noted best actress in the Variety Club Awards), and she seemed happy to acknowledge her distinguished lineage.

As a young actress, Richardson evidently found the family reputation daunting, perhaps even stifling. Whether the death from Aids last November of her father, the director Tony Richardson, has altered her outlook, or whether it is simply that, at 28, she has a new-found maturity, she is now keener to embrace the mutual support system that the family offers.

As far as is geographically possible they catch each other's performances, and Natasha actively invites comment from her own family. That "constructive criticism", she says, is something she will miss most about her father. Her father's name crops up often in conversation. She remembers that it was he who introduced her, at the age of 14, to New York, a city with which she immediately felt a sense of belonging. Along with London, New York is now home for her and Robert Fox, her theatre-producer husband. "I don't think you could have a closer relationship between father and daughter than we had. He was furious when I got married. He would have liked me to have lived with him."

Tony Richardson directed his most critically successful films in the 1960s: *Look Back in Anger*, *A Taste of Honey*, *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*. Natasha's

first part — "more an extra" — at the age of three or four, was as her mother's bridesmaid in *The Charge of the Light Brigade*.

"I don't really know what I'm going to do without him. He gave me so much, gave me a huge wealth of different experiences, different people, different places."

'Her acting aims for truth derived from an emotional connection with the character'

He doggedly fought to do the work he believed in, refusing to work for studios who were probably offering lucrative films. If he didn't believe in them, he wouldn't do them. He did what I think is his best work in years in a film with Jessica Lange and Tommy Lee Jones called *Blue Skies*, which is coming out later this year. I am so pleased that this is his last film; it corks a snook at those people that said, "Oh well, his talent had just gone off the boil."

Understandably, Natasha Richardson has a great respect for the sort of directors who fight long and hard to get projects off the ground, and who display integrity and vision. Paul Schrader has been a focal point in her career. Directing her in *Patty Hearst*, he fought for her in preference to American actors when she was virtually

unknown in the United States. And when she had reservations about accepting *Comfort of Strangers*, she finally agreed because "I owed him one".

Patty Hearst won Richardson her first film comedy role. Then, *The Handmaid's Tale* nearly lost it. She had almost signed the deal for *The Favour, the Watch and the Very Big Fish* when she was strongly advised to break her holiday. Ben Lewin, the director of *The Favour*, had seen *The Handmaid's Tale* and wanted convincing that she could be funny.

She convinced him, perhaps because, in real life, Richardson — with a ready gurgling of a laugh — is a far warmer person than some of those she portrays on screen. Her film roles have been strong, but often of a type women manipulated into strange situations. In theatre, by contrast, she has mixed lightweight roles in *On the Razzle*, *Top Girls*, *Charlie's Aunt* and *High Society* with the classic roles in *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Seagull*.

She is delighted with her first romantic comedy, *The Favour, the Watch and the Very Big Fish*, based on Marcel Aymé's novel *Rue Saint-Sulpice*, takes place in a shop selling religious artefacts. Bob Hoskins is a photographer seeking a Christ figure for a religious picture. Jeff Goldblum, an ex-convict, fits the bill, and they are both in love with Richardson. The "watch" links the triangular relationship; the "favour" is how Hoskins and Richardson meet; the "very big fish" has a fleeing role.

Richardson chooses her parts largely on gut instinct, based on the need to do something different and



Richardson: "I don't think you could have a closer relationship between father and daughter than we had."

bringing something special to the character. Her acting, "a sort of method acting, but not in the American way", aims for truth derived from an emotional connection with the character.

In this film, Richardson gets the man, Hoskins. But she found their meeting scene "incredibly nerve-wracking". They had to sit side by side, voicing the soundtrack to a love movie. There were "three pages of stage directions for

one orgasm; rises and falls and crescendos with instructions like 'She trilled like a bird'. Aware of the orgasm scene in *When Harry Met Sally*, Richardson says she "heard a symphony of an orgasm in my head. I stopped thinking about what the crew might think I sounded like in bed." It would have been preferable, she thinks, to have to play a love scene naked. "At least you can close your eyes and hide in someone's shoulder and a bit of sheet."

With so much competition for so few meaty roles, even good actresses like Richardson cannot afford to wait for them simply to be handed over. She admits that she chased roles in *The Sheltering Sky* and *Dangerous Liaisons*, but failed. "I can't bear the humiliation, so unless I really want to do something, I would rather not put myself in the position of being turned down for it."

Inheriting a strong work ethic, Richardson does not welcome fallow periods. So she is also beginning to work as a producer, creating her own projects. Her first success has been to persuade Jason Robards to play opposite her in *Anna Christie*, on Broadway.

● The Favour, the Watch and the Very Big Fish will be reviewed here tomorrow and goes on release on Friday.

ARTS BRIEF

Showing more

AFTER several years in the doldrums, the Edinburgh Festival exhibition programme is looking up. The National Galleries of Scotland are staging three major exhibitions, including what is billed as the definitive show of the work of the 18th-century portrait painter Allan Ramsay (1713-84).

Ramsay, painter to King George III, was a leading figure in the Scottish Enlightenment, though his reputation never rivalled those of his English counterparts, Reynolds and Gainsborough. This festival show may change that. The two other exhibitions are devoted to "Dutch Art and Scotland: A Reflection of Taste" and to James Pryde.

Another Dylan

IS RADIO 2 going up-market? Next month, Dylan Thomas is to be the subject of an hour-long programme on the network. Devised by the singer/songwriter Ralph McTell (composer of that perennial favourite, "The Streets of London"), the narrative is underscored with songs and orchestration, and features Michael Elphick as a private eye character who attempts to investigate the early death of the Welsh poet. *The Boy With a Note* will be broadcast on March 3.

Last chance...

SELDOM can a new play by a major dramatist have received such mixed reviews as Arthur Miller's *Ride Down Mt. Morgan* at Wyndhams (071-867 1111) last October. Some were highly amused by its sympathetic portrait of a bigamist and the two women in his life; others, including this paper, thought the piece laborious and its arguments for emotional honesty shallow. Tom Conti shrugs and shambles his way through the role of the two-timing Lyman for the last time on Saturday.

TOMORROW IN LIFE & TIMES

Geoff Brown on *Barton Fink* and the other new films

LITERATURE

Take a dip, everybody's doing it

Although literary anthologies are becoming ever more esoteric, their popularity continues to grow. Nicolette Jones reports

Are you in the market for a plausible literary anthology of lies? Or nutty enough to want one on madness? How about a nice volume of fevers and frets for a friend? Know anyone to buy death for? If so, anthologies on all these subjects are available, and part of a proliferating industry.

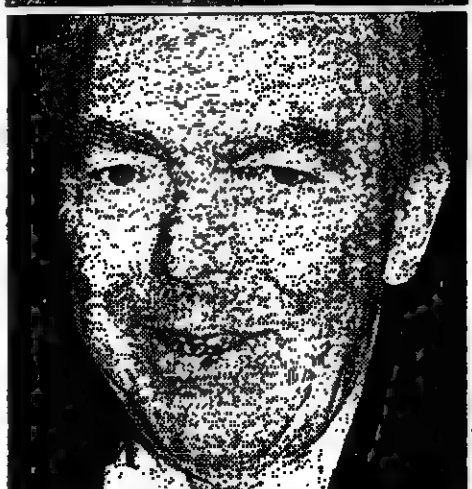
In the last few years we have had — to choose but a few — literary companions to seductions (edited by an ex-nun, Jenny Newman), to marriage, friendship, dissent, dreams, the turf, the sea, soccer (edited by a distinguished poet and biographer, Ian Hamilton), and one the publishers say you could "buy for almost anyone": *Drinks, Drinkers and Drinking*.

Oxford University Press has more than 40 anthologies in print; Faber more than 30. The "Chamo Books of" are thriving: Penguin and Virago have long been in on the idea; and last autumn the first (*Theatre Verse*) of the drama-oriented "Methuen Books of" appeared. Others have joined in: Fiona Pitt-Kethley's already much-chastised *Literary Companion to Sex* is published by Sinclair-Stevenson on Friday; Valentine's Day. More, many more, are on the assembly line.

Anthologies clearly sell, but why? And, as their subjects get more and more recherché, have publishers gone well over the top on esoteric compilations? It can only be a matter of time before we have *The Bedside Book of Skin Diseases* or *The Faber Book of Root Vegetables*. There is enough material already for an anthology of anthologies.

There is a long tradition of compiling the good bits of Shakespeare, or "Gems of English Poetry", and the Victorians liked to dip into thematic drawing-room collections. Many of us grew up with Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch's *Oxford Book of English Verse* and Palgrave's *Golden Treasury*. Hugh Kingsmill's *Invective and Abuse*, published in 1944, was successful enough to be followed up by *More Invective*. Brian Gardner's anthology of first world war poetry, *Up the Line to Death*, edited by Brian Gardner and published by Methuen in the 1960s, "goes on and on".

But the form has enjoyed a recent renaissance. Collections of prose and poetry



A gathering of gatherers-in: recent and successful anthologists (clockwise from top left) Angela Carter, Seamus Heaney, Fiona Pitt-Kethley and Frank Muir

themselves have diversified from improving samples for the schoolroom and comprehensive representations of the British literary canon, to such groundbreaking ventures as Virago's *Bread and Roses*, an anthology of women's poetry; Faber's *Vernacular Verse*; Penguin's *Caribbean Verse* and *Homosexual Verse*; and Virago's new collection of "poetry for the environment": *Beneath the Wide, Wide Heaven*.

Certain watershed books in the genre encouraged publishers to experiment. For OUP, which had long published academic anthologies of Latin or German verse for a specialist readership, the success of James Sutherland's *Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes*, first published in 1975 and still a top seller, was a revelation. The list expanded cautiously and now in-

cludes Oxford Books of Dreams, Prayer, Royal Anecdotes and even of Oxford.

Still the publishers say they are selective: "Oxford Books have a certain cachet; we have to be careful that the subjects are appropriate and appropriately done," says a spokesman. "It wouldn't be so easy for us to do a book of sex."

For Chatto, two poetry anthologies did well in 1988: Hugh Haughton's *Nonsense Poetry* and John Fuller's *Love Poetry*. These triumphs meant that when Francis Spufford suggested *The Chatto Book of Cabbages and Kings*, a hoard of literary lists, the publishers took up the challenge.

Was there a need for a book of literary lists? "No one really needs an anthology, ever," admits Chatto's Jonathan

Burnham. These are not useful reference books, like dictionaries of quotations. So who, and what, are they for? For instance, *The Faber Book of Soccer* is not, as even its publisher admits, for the terraces. The average fan is not going to see the point of an extract from Martin Amis, even when the extract is about the average fan.

Mostly anthologies are bought as gifts: match your friends to the theme. Hence the success of *Love Poetry* (Chatto's best seller). There could be a lot of unhappy recipients out there of lies, madness or death. But these clearly have a curiosity value: *The Penguin Book of Lies* has sold 12,000 copies in hardback and more than 15,000 in paperback.

Is editor, crime novelist and amateur forger Philip Kerr, who paints his own

Cézannes for a hobby, justifies his theme: "I read Oscar Wilde's monograph *On the Decay of Lying*, in which he speculated that one day someone would collect a short edition of the world's best lies and liars. If it was a good idea then it seemed a good idea now."

Oxford believes its anthologies are best read through, like novels, because they set out to show historical developments. That seems optimistic. As Geoffrey Strachan of Methuen says, these are "books you don't have to take a holiday to read". They reward half an hour's bedtime dabbles.

So is their success evidence of our bite-sized attention span? Perhaps, although their popularity grows along with that of novels that can double as doorknobs. And is it fair to writers to reduce them to sound-bites, the literary equivalent of television's handling of politicians' speeches? Publishers insist anthologies can be of service to literature, acquainting thousands with bits of Bunyan or Barrett Browning they would otherwise be unlikely to encounter.

Besides, quality writing is acknowledged to be a crucial selling point. Another is respected editors, as shown by Frank Muir's *Oxford Book of Humorous Prose*, Angela Carter's *Virago Book of Fairy Tales*, Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes's *The Rattle Bag* (an anthology for children), and John Carey's *Faber Book of Reportage*, their respective publishers' top-sellers.

As competition increases, could the trend be on the way out? Not immediately, it seems. Faber will continue to publish "one or two a season", and among its forthcoming commissions are Salman Rushdie on Indian short fiction, A.N. Wilson on churches and clergymen, Christopher Ricks on America, Simon Rae on murder.

Methuen has Shakespeare anecdotes coming in April and theatrical short stories in October. From Chatto we can look forward to books of the Devil and of office life; from Oxford, John Mortimer on villains; from Virago, wicked verse; and from Penguin, fights, feuds and heartfelt hatreds. Rumour has it that there is even a literary companion to dogs on the way.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Ragging the Vatican

ism, was a landmark in the history of Catholic social thought. But the strict prohibition of abortion, which the programme treated as an example of John Paul's liberalism, was axiomatic long before his pontificate.

The preaching of heterodoxy from the pulpit has nothing to do with political freedom or human rights, but the Pope's attempt to reassert his authority over the clergy was treated as an attack upon democracy in general. It was predictable that the programme would give opportunities to John Paul's critics, such as Hans Kung and Peter Hebblethwaite, to denounce him. But their allegations were never allowed to be answered.

Instead we were left with Kung's assertion (unpleasantly suggestive of German arrogance towards Poles) that the Pope is trying to impose a Polish model on the

rest of Europe. Frenkel's patronising portrait of Polish Catholicism — with the former mouthpiece of martial law, Jerzy Urban, wheeled out to warn of "clerical dictatorship" — implausibly suggested that the church had there inherited the "power" of the communist party.

The no less loaded treatment of Catholic missions in the former Soviet Union likewise exploited the faintly sinister resonance which words such as "Jesuit" still have in this country. But it was never made clear whether the "Pope's divisions" were indeed a grave threat to the values held dear at the BBC, or whether the Roman church was "a colonial empire in its last days". Perhaps Frenkel et al hoped the mud would stick, either way.

At one point in the programme the Reverend Ian Paisley, MP, was hailed out of the European Parliament, hurling abuse at the Pope. Unlike those who dislike Wojtyla for being a Polish Catholic or for undermining communism, Paisley was sure that he was up against Antichrist. Give me a good old-fashioned anti-Papist any day.

DANIEL JOHNSON

JAZZ RECORDS

Reasons to be cheerful

AFTER the euphoria of the 1980s, British jazz is slowly coming back to earth. Doom and gloom are everywhere. Yet Orphy Robinson's debut for Blue Note suggests that there are some reasons for optimism.

A vibraphone player who made his name with Andy Sheppard and the Jazz Warriors, Robinson is an incandescent, sometimes prolix soloist who has been seeking the ideal vehicle for his talents. With the sextet Annavas he turns away from the conventions of theme-solo-theme and experiments with collective improvisation. In the process he is also attempting to synthesize the musical styles which have influenced his generation of black Londoners.

The most distinctive feature is the unorthodox instrumentation, Rowland Sutherland's flute drifting alongside the kora of the young African virtuoso Tunde Jegede. The players set about their task

Orphy Robinson & Annavas: *When Tomorrow Comes* (Blue Note CDP-7985812) George Shearing: *The Shearing Touch* (Sequel Jazz NKTCD-173) George Shearing & Mel Tormé: *Mel and George "Do" World War II* (Concord CDD-4471)

with enormous vitality, with Robinson often content to lay down a simple interlocking rhythmic pattern.

As a first album, *When Tomorrow Comes* is accomplished, but could have been even more persuasive. Almost all the pieces could have been reduced by half without sacrificing intensity. The 14-minute suite "Let's See What Tomorrow Comes" is the worst offender.

Otherwise the album benefits from scrupulous production work by John Surman. And Robinson shows greater ambition and individuality than many of the American tyros signed up by Blue Note.

British by birth, George Shearing became one of the kings of crossover in the Fifties through his use of decorative unison arrangements of piano, guitar and vibes. Add laid-back Latin percussion, and the result is a guaranteed crowd pleaser. Stretched across three CDs on *The Shearing Touch* — re-licensed from the Capitol vaults — the formula does wear thin. There is, however, the bonus of guest appearances by Nat King Cole, Peggy Lee, Nancy Wilson and Dakota Staton.

There is rather more meat to be found on his recent work for the Concord label. Among the more relaxed dates is a 1990 West Coast concert with Mel Tormé. Built around songs from the war years, this is an informal and unbuttoned session: two friends having a good time and not worrying about the occasional clunker.

CLIVE DAVIS

Hard tackles on a shoestring

On Sunday women's rugby took over the sacred turf of Cardiff Arms Park. William Greaves was converted



Bess Evans with her mother after the game, and two stitches

In three hours they would be suiting out on the hallowed ground of Cardiff Arms Park, the ancestral home of Welsh rugby where Gareth Edwards and J.P.R. Williams once reigned supreme. But now the track-suited forwards were sitting, lounging and crouching on and around the double bed of room 213 at the city's Angel Hotel, listening to coach Jonathan Moore telling them what to expect from the much-vaunted English pack.

"When they're in our 22 they'll attack off the back row and look to work a switch with the centres, so watch the blind side," he said, in a jargon which was instantly understood by an audience of thoughtfully nodding heads. "If the back row start running it's your job, Bess, to get out there tackling..."

From the corner, Belinda Davies, a 29-year-old sales manager from Llandrindod Wells, felt moved to offer her view of her opposing prop forward, Sandy Ewing. "She's happy when she's allowed to look good running around the park — but give her a bad time in the scrum and she's knackered."

The tension eased. This was fighting talk and just the kind of thing 25-year-old Bess Evans, hooker, vice-captain and chairman of the Welsh Women's Rugby Football Union, needed to hear to quell the big match nerves which had kept her awake for most of the night.

As the host organiser of the sixth clash between the women of Wales and England, she knew better than anybody the significance of the next few hours. This was much more than a game of rugby. It was the day when the audience response would determine whether her sex had really made its mark

on the most intimately physical of all outdoor team sports. I had come, full of joy and rich in mixed metaphor, to watch jolly hockey sticks replacing the blood and bruises of the real thing.

There would never be a better chance to challenge such chauvinist prejudices. Although their first club sides date back to the late 1970s and the Women's Rugby Football Union (WRFU) was formed nine years ago, last Sunday was the first time they had been allowed to use a national stadium for a home international match.

And if that were not milestones enough, the game was to be refereed by Derek Bevan, who took charge of last year's World Cup final in which Australia and England could have filled Twickenham many times over.

Would such an eloquent vote of confidence from one of the most respected officials of the men's game produce the kind of spectator attendance which was so desperately needed?

That all this was haunting the Welsh chairman's mind through those fateful hours of darkness was confirmed first thing on the morning of battle by her roommate Tania Wear, a 26-year-old engineering undergraduate, loose head prop forward and new cap. "Every time I rolled over, I was aware of Bess lying there wide awake, staring at the ceiling," she said.

Miss Evans, an athletic and irrepressibly cheerful postgraduate student of the University of Wales, where she is studying for an M. Phil in sports physiology, agreed that it had been a disastrous night. "The trouble was that I was wearing two hats. As a player I badly want to beat England but I'm also concerned that the whole



All in together: the Welsh women's rugby union team engage in a loose maul while Derek Bevan, the World Cup referee, keeps a sharp eye on proceedings

day is a success. Because we are playing at the Arms Park, I thought it was important to keep up the stature of the occasion by booking the two teams into good hotels nearby. The Welsh Rugby Union gave us the ground but we have to pay for the security stewards and although both the Grand and the Angel hotels have generously given me time to settle their accounts, I'll be in big trouble if we don't get enough through the turnstiles."

With 130 club sides but no major sponsor, women's rugby is both the fastest-growing team sport in Britain (according to the Sports Council) and a shoestring survivor. That one of its star players should have to lift her eyes from the scrum and anxiously count the paying punters comes as no surprise to Karen Almond, a PE teacher from Herefordshire who is the England visitors' captain, fly half and a veteran of 20 internationals. "We've always had to pay for our own travel and hotels and we even have to buy our shirts and socks

out of our own pocket," she said without a hint of complaint. "We had our own world cup competition last year and England lost to the US in the final. We'd love to go over there to play a return but it's an awfully long way away."

By 6.30am, Miss Evans gave up the unequal struggle against insomnia, got dressed and went out to pace the Cardiff pavements. Three hours later she joined her teammates for a carbohydrate breakfast of pasta and a lemon and lime energy drink which Carol Thomas, a wing forward with eight previous caps but today one of the replacements on the bench, said tasted much better with vodka in it. Everyone laughed a bit too loudly. Badinage was clearly an approved antidote to ever-tightening nerves.

Afterwards in room 102 — "just give me five minutes to tidy away yesterday's knickers" (more laughter and several ribald comments) — Miss Evans laid newspaper on the bed to get down to the chore of boot-cleaning. "I never had any feminist ambition to knock down barriers," she said. "I was introduced to the game at college and

'I wanted to play because it was a young, growing sport — and the physical contact appealed too'

wanted to play it because unlike hockey and netball it was a young, growing sport — and I suppose the physical contact side of it appealed to me, too."

With an hour to go before kick-off, both teams were changed and out on the turf for team pictures. Edginess was everywhere as each player found her own method to calm a pounding heart. Miss Wear looked up at the empty stands. "You can almost feel them filled with people, can't you?" she said. "It's a dream come true. At college a lot of the boys talk about one day playing at Cardiff Arms

Park — well I've beaten them too."

The crowd, including guests, built up to about 3,000 and the all-important turnstile receipts to £6,500 — "certainly enough to cover the hotel and security bills", said a much relieved Miss Evans afterwards. If it was not exactly the capacity 53,000 that would have graced the comparable men's international clash, by the time the band had played the national anthems, there was no shortage of partisan clamour.

And within about 20 minutes at least one male spectator was aware of a strange attitude conversion. England's fleet-footed Deborah Francis had gone over for a try in the corner; at the other end Welsh flanker Jackie Morgan had taken advantage of an appalling defensive mix-up to touch down the equalising points; the crowd, equally divided in allegiance, bayed its encouragement — and the field was no longer full of women but of rugby players locked in mighty conflict.

The game ebbed and flowed with Miss Almond and her opposing Welsh fly-half, Samantha For-

ter, exchanging a couple of penalty goals each. A lengthy period of English pressure in the last half hour brought a spectacular try from full-back Jane Mitchell and a winning margin of 14-10.

Back at the hotel, Rosie Gofby, a player herself and the secretary of the WRFU, laughed at my reaction. "That's what nearly everyone says when they watch for the first time — that they soon forget that we are women," she said.

Last to arrive at the reception was Miss Evans — delayed by having two stitches in a badly cut lip.

"I went in to tackle Jill Burns, the English No 8, and her head popped up and caught me," she said philosophically. "It doesn't look very pretty and I'm afraid it's ruined my chances for tonight."

Her mother, Jean Evans, put a consoling arm around her. "She's had black eyes, terrible bruises and one broken leg and I always seem to end up taking her to hospital," she said.

"But I never worry. Our whole household is given over to women's rugby — and she's doing what she wants to do."

How to handle the fictional violator: the writer of tomorrow's *EastEnders* relied on empathy

The husband, the wife and the rapist

Kathy felt James put his hand on her shoulder, then give her a quick squeeze. She shrugged him off but he had his arms around her. She did not want to offend her boss by pushing him away too forcefully — but when he kissed her, she ran for the door. Then he was on top of her, pushing up her skirt, and all she could feel was pain.

When Kathy Beale was raped in *EastEnders* three years ago, BBC1's *Points of View* was inundated with letters complaining about the graphic portrayal of the violation. But just as many women wrote to the actress Gillian Taylorforth thanking her for helping them to come to terms with their own rape.

Now *EastEnders*, not a programme which shies away from complicated issues (drugs, suicide, murder and AIDS are everyday occurrences), is tackling the return of the rapist.

James Willmott-Brown, fresh from prison, has come back to haunt Kathy and in tomorrow's episode she decides to confront him.

In deference to the subject the producers have decided to make it into a "three-hander", where all the action is between three characters and takes place in one room.

This device has been used before in the series: the last occasion was a "two-hander" when Sharon and Michelle, the daughter and former lover of "Dirty" Den respectively, met after his death.

In tomorrow's episode Kathy, the typically stoical *EastEnders* woman; James, the middle-class rapist who wears pink shirts and a Barbours; and Pete, Kathy's former husband, a good-natured, simple, fruit-and-veg stallholder, all meet each other round a table in a battle of nerves.

The effect is more like a scene from a Pinter play than life in a terraced house in Albert Square: there are endless pauses, dramatic one-liners and macabre jokes.

Sixteen men and 11 women are on the scriptwriting team for the programme, and this episode was written by Debbie Cook.

She does not think she was chosen because she is a woman. She relished the chance to get her teeth into another gritty-gritty portrayal of the grim facts of Albert Square life.

"I jumped at the chance to do a three-hander because of the rock-bottom emotions involved," she says.



Scriptwriter Debbie Cook: unlike Kathy in *EastEnders*, she managed to escape a would-be rapist

"As a woman I can probably understand Kathy's feelings of revulsion at being violated and her anger at being helpless while she is being abused but there are also two male characters in the scene and I can't just write them off because I am female."

"Anyway it was a male storyliner who thought up the whole confrontation in the beginning. He felt that Kathy should be allowed to get it off her mind and they chose a male director — so this is not just a female crusade."

Ms Cook does not believe in doing any research for her scripts. She wrote this one in three days, between endless cups of coffee, and burst into tears over her typewriter at the end.

"You can't really do research because everyone reacts different-

ly. All you can do is look at the characters and think how they will react."

"I know Kathy. I have lived with her for two years. I know what she puts on her face, what she eats for breakfast and what she thinks of the royal family. She's been raped twice, poor lamb. We have gone through a lot together."

"Rape counsellors would have given me all this hype about post-rape trauma but how often have they interviewed a woman like Kathy, who has had to confront her rapist in his house in front of her ex-husband?"

Ms Cook did ask various friends what they thought they would do if they found themselves in the same situation. Most said that they would annihilate the rapist with a sawn-off shotgun.

Kathy uses a mixture of sarcasm, desperation and venom to portray her feelings and put down both her husband and the rapist.

"Kathy is embattled, sensitive, brave and up-front. She has spent her whole life caught in a relationship where there are clearly-defined roles and she was the submissive one."

"It took the rape to pinpoint the falsity of her life. In this scene she can come into her own. She is poised and dignified."

"I am a great admirer of Kathy," says Ms Cook. "I hope the episode will help other women to feel confident enough to stand up for themselves and take control."

Ms Cook has been threatened with rape herself and tried to laugh it off like Kathy. She managed to get out of the situation

but not before she had felt totally humiliated.

When Kathy forces the rapist to apologise, Ms Cook says she was silently cheering from the sidelines and feels that writing the script may have had a cathartic effect.

So do Pete and James get an unnecessarily hard time? Pete is asked by the rapist whether he ever slept with his wife against her will and Kathy tells Pete that their relationship was only based on sex.

"I may have misjudged men's attitudes but I think when a man's wife is raped, his own feelings are proportional. The woman could be a dog or an orange but it is your property and this is how Pete has been feeling."

"Until now he is still taunting her for having brought it on herself. I'd like to think that he will now be capable of better attitudes when he realises what his wife has gone through."

Ms Cook turned down an offer to talk to rape offenders because, she felt it would make her too angry to treat James sympathetically. "Every man I talked to said they couldn't imagine wanting to rape a woman but I can understand James. He is blinded by his passion, which gives his life a purpose and draws him back to Kathy. He doesn't care if it means going to prison."

"By the end I could sympathise with all of them and I hope the viewers will as well. The question is, more than one of rape. It is about power, domination and fantasy and that can involve any class, race or sex."

Helen Greaves, the episode's producer, has no qualms about devoting the whole episode to the rape issue. Fifty-nine per cent of the audience are women, but she thinks the issue of rape is important to everyone. Even children can learn from the confrontation, she suggests, although she thinks they will probably find it quite boring.

"Lots of people have the desire to confront someone who has hurt them and Kathy gives them that opportunity," Ms Greaves says.

"Debbie Cook was chosen because she handles those sort of situations admirably."

"Every woman feels threatened or intimidated occasionally. I think men will be surprised at the complexities that Kathy goes through. It will make some men feel uncomfortable."

ALICE THOMSON

Market to market

A "EUROPEAN Businesswoman of the '90s" workshop will be held next Thursday, February 20, at the Institute of Directors (IOD) in London. Leading businesswomen will be lecturing and chairing round-table discussions and workshops on all aspects of "marketing to the single European market", including financial planning. The panel will include Moyra Bremner and Tina Knight, the managing director of Nighthawk Electronics. The £55 full-day workshop will include lunch and a cocktail reception hosted by the IOD. The day has been organised by Bawe, The British Association of Women Entrepreneurs. Details/tickets from them at 33 Calthness Road, London W14 0JA (071-602 4656).

Chore cheer

ACCORDING to a report just produced by the Henley Centre for Forecasting, much coverage of "women's issues" and "their progress in society" has been unduly pessimistic. Those who feel they have been banging their heads against a brick wall — or glass ceiling — in a futile attempt to get ahead may take heart from the centre's prediction that "the immediate trend is towards a growing role for women in society. Women are in a position to take the majority of new jobs created between 1990 and 1995, and are widening their access to higher education and job training." How will we manage this? Only if we are prepared to relinquish "our" central role inside the home, the Henley Centre suggests — and notes a trend that suggests we are. Men, the report says, are now spending "on average four hours a

week more on domestic work than they did five years ago"; at this rate, "by 2000 men will be doing over 45 per cent of essential shopping, everyday cooking and other household chores".

Get in there

IT'S A sign of the times that "How to sell yourself at interviews" courses have been doing so well at the City of London Polytechnic that they have been introduced for a second year. The first sessions for 1992 will take place on the evenings of February 25 and 26 (£75 for the two-evening course) and the course is "highly participative", according to the organisers, with lots of chance to practise interview skills — from both sides of the desk — and coaching on how to field awkward questions. Further details from Short Course Unit, City Poly, 84 Moorgate, London EC2 (071-256 8843).

Syndrome talk

THE Women's Nutritional Advisory Service (WNAS) has organised a conference on PMS (pre-menstrual syndrome), especially for GPs, at the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on April 27. The WNAS, a private organisation with clinics in London and Hove and a postal service, was founded eight years ago by the nutritionist Dr Maryon Stewart to give help to PMS sufferers. The clinics advise women on how to help themselves through PMS with diet and exercise, and estimate that 73 per cent of women of childbearing age are affected by it. Vitamin B6 and Efamol — evening primrose oil — are among the suggested palliatives recommended by the advisory service. Further information can be obtained by sending a large sae to WNAS, PO Box 268, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1RW.

VICTORIA MCKEE

HEALTH ON FRIDAY

"Rachel has a secure relationship, a house, a career and herpes... Alice Thomson on life after herpes, on the Health page on Friday"

Clare Longrigg reports on the latest stage of Dawn French's crusade against a "fattist" fashion industry

Very big in Camden

Where should I put my arm? It looks too modelly with my arm up," Dawn French calls from the set. She finds a pocket in the folds of the voluminous shirt and tries it out. "Now I look as if I've got no hands. What kind of morons spend all day doing this?"

"You do, darling," someone shouts. The camera flashes. "Someone taught me how to pose once," Ms French continues as the stylist brushes her hair into huge, bouncing curls. She leans forward with one hand in front of her, as though she were climbing on a table. "I've tried it in the street and it's never worked at all." The team of assistants, big and less big, wait on the sidelines shaking with giggles. She moves one tiny foot in front of the other. "This is my other position I can do."

Dawn French is modelling a flowing olive green shirt and black trousers designed by Helen Teague, her partner in a company which makes and sells clothes for big women. They are preparing the spring catalogue of their shop, called 1647, which opened last year. The name refers to a statistic they say they discovered that 47 per cent of British women are size 16 or over — a figure that, if accurate, has been wilfully ignored by most of the fashion industry.

Large women, who have suffered ritual humiliation in the fitting rooms of British boutiques and department stores, come from all over the United Kingdom to the shop in Camden, north London, and fall on Ms Teague's voluminous clothes with tears of gratitude.

All big women want, Ms French says, is to be able to go shopping. This does not seem an unreasonable demand. "I've got blouses with a bow at the neck, you know, like Margaret Thatcher, because it's the only thing that would fit me. You see big women in smock dresses or in orange velour because it's all they can get."

Ms Teague's clothes are not just big, they are loose and flowing but well cut, designed to make big women feel comfortable — there is no question of building in inches of seam to let out. She uses fine fabrics, particularly silk and jersey, which are cool to wear, because "big women sweat," Ms French says.

The shop, too, is designed for comfort: the blinds are discreetly drawn; there is a sofa, cups of coffee; the first

thing you see is a big bowl of chocolates. It has the atmosphere of a salon; appointments (which are encouraged) are two hours long, but some clients stay all day, and try on every single item in the shop.

The seamstresses are big girls; there are big girls in the shop," Ms French says. "Big women don't want to be served by stick insects." The last phrase comes out with unexpected venom. "Women have felt bullied and uncomfortable for so long."

And Ms Teague is very good about sizes. "We start at size 16 but the sizes are Small, Medium and Large. It does people good to walk into a place for the first time in their lives and say, 'I think I'll have a Small'."

"Our clothes are safe. They're not trendy. You're not going to look foolish."

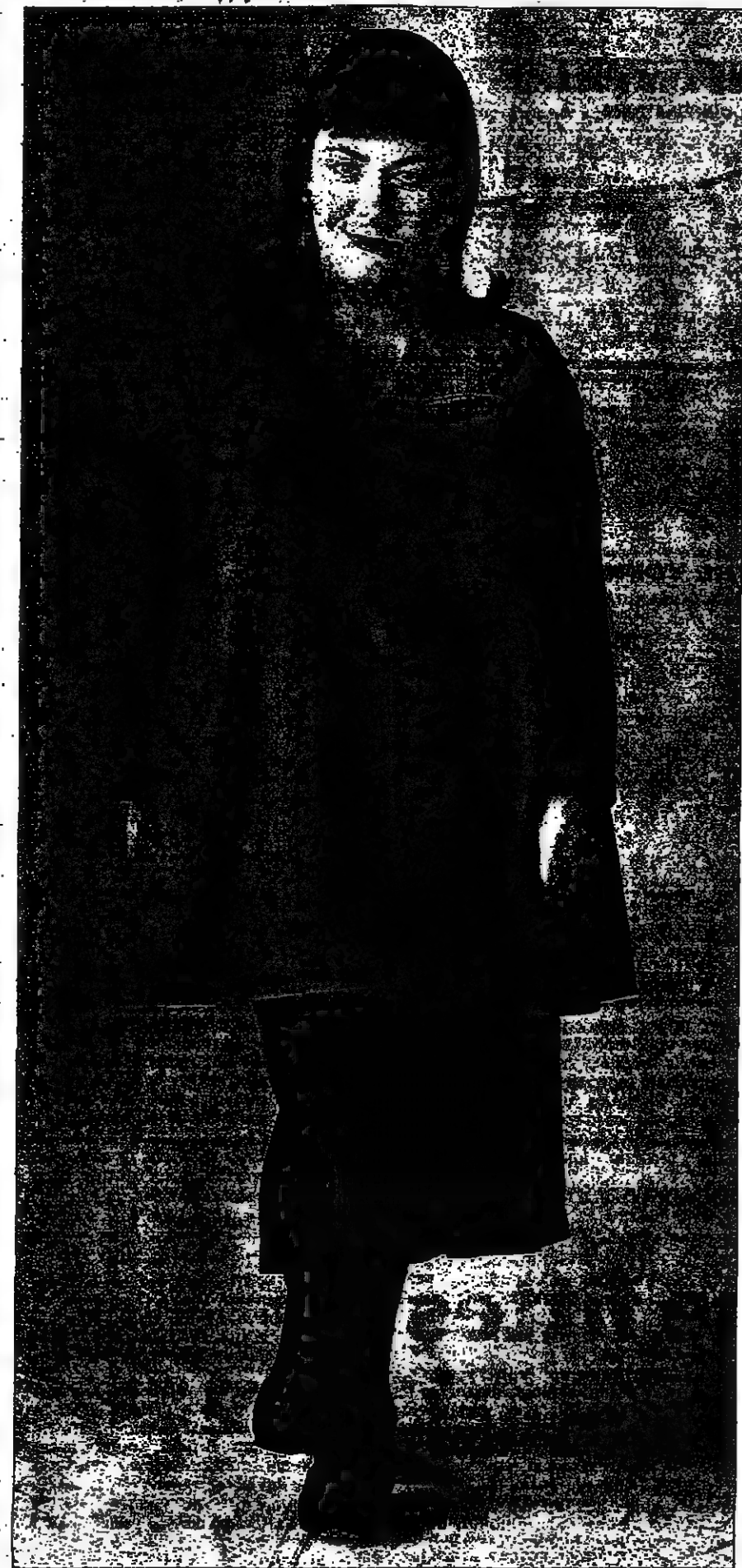
This is all very anti-fashion: but Ms French, not much above 5ft 2in and something around size 16, has always found the industry "preposterous". She appears in an elegant white suit made of rough silk: she snarls, pushing out her lips. "That's what they look like in *Vogue*, now I don't think that's a nice way to sell clothes," she says in a nice voice.

The next item is a damson suit and tie; the jacket has a rounded front, something like a summer pudding, and hangs in waves over the trousers. Every outfit features generous curves; there are no sharp edges in evidence, nothing to offend or unnerve. "I want some éclairs," Ms French calls out from the soft pool of light.

"I find it utterly pretentious standing in front of a stills camera," she says afterwards. "For those top models, the idea is to look fierce. Our clothes are about feeling good. If you're wearing something loosey you can think, 'I'll have another chocolate and it won't matter'."

The shop has been a resounding success. "We need to get a bigger shop. It's much too small — to get three big women in a small shop is quite a feat," Ms French says. But they are not taking any chances with losing customers: the plan is to open a restaurant in the shop: not a carrot juice bar, but a temple of guilt-free consumption.

So is this the beginning of an anti-fattist revolution? More women are making it big: Rosalind Wiseman has her own television show, Jo Brand includes fattist jokes in her comedy routine; Oprah



About the size of it: Dawn French models her partner Helen Teague's clothes. Women who visit their shop sometimes try every single thing on, finding time to eat chocolates, too



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Taking the rearing view

Full Time Mothers wants tax breaks for women at home

early and by the end of the run I knew I was lying to other people and lying to myself about wanting to have it all."

She admits she speaks from a position of privilege: "I had no financial worries and absolute choice. Bruce is very much in favour of working mothers and would have bent over backwards to accommodate my career. He'd have paid for three nannies to keep me going."

But Full Time Mothers is not just for the middle classes, she insists. "Our members — we've amassed 300 — come from council estates as well as manor houses: they're secretaries, nurses, shift workers in factories, many who are forced into very unsatisfactory childcare arrangements."

"I'm campaigning on behalf of mothers for whom the kind of tax reforms we're after — like a transferable personal allowance for a non-working wife and personal allowances for children themselves — could put £3,300 a year in their pockets. For many, that's no less than what they have left now after getting to work, paying for lunch and childcare. And it may cost the government no more

than giving tax breaks for nurseries."

The precept of her campaign is that no paid child care worker can substitute for a parent, but she is in favour of recruiting family if a double income is paramount: "They have an interest in the child that can't be replicated by paid staff. The next best thing is flexible working hours for women, including retraining course time."

She is aware that some brand her group as reactionary. She says she was "put up to" forming it by Brian Griffiths, formerly the head of Margaret Thatcher's policy unit and now the head of the Schools Examinations Assessment Council, and Valerie Riches of Family and Youth Concern, a conservative pressure group. "I saw her on television and was struck to hear her ask: 'What about the children?' — a question almost nobody articulates."

"I called her up and she introduced me to Frances Savin, a BSc with seven children who had an organisation called Women at Home. She, Rachel Griffiths (married to Brian Griffiths) and a couple of others are the core group: one works full-time."

"But we're not associated with Family and Youth Concern and we're certainly not reactionary, though I'm aware our views are politically incorrect for the times. We share a certain amount of ground with the Working Mothers' Association (an action group for mothers who work outside the home) — the need for flexible hours, for example."

She says she wishes more women could believe they could still fly high after taking a ten or 15 year career break.

Her mother studied for an external degree in middle age and put herself on the market at 55. "By the time she was 61 she was co-principal of a language school. But it was a battle. No woman should be penalised for taking the time to raise a family."

ANTHEA GERRIE



Bright spark Kathy Gyngell with Adam (left) and Jamie

BRIEFLY

Get in there

Syndrome talk

This cloud has a silver lining

Peter Bowman sees a bright future for the gloom-laden national dailies

Control of the national television station was the focus of the Romanian uprising in 1989. Last year, the Gulf war and the attempted Moscow coup saw Sky News and especially CNN almost set the news agenda.

Link these events with the current circulation falls suffered by nearly all national daily newspapers, and a gloomy picture emerges: what used to be called Fleet Street seems to be withering away under the onslaught of the electronic news media and public indifference. Despite these omens, newspapers have cause to be optimistic, though not complacent.

The size and structure of the national newspaper market has hardly changed for 30 years. Promotions, games and especially increases in cover prices induce short-term fluctuations, and prospects can look more or less positive depending on your starting point.

But the last six months of 1991 saw the combined sales of the 11 national papers drop by 5 per cent, from 14.3 million in 1990 to 13.6 million, the largest drop for six years (although last year saw *The Daily Sport*, which is not included in the Audit Bureau of Circulations data, begin to sell around 200,000 copies a day).

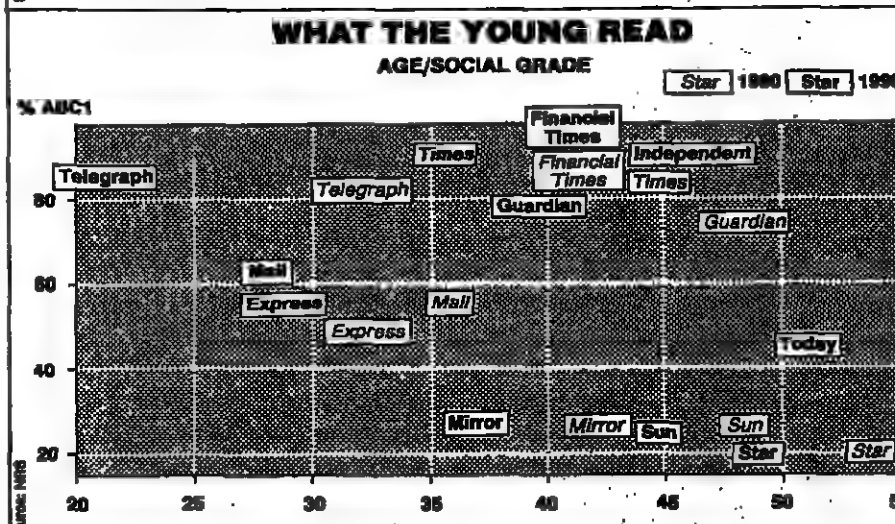
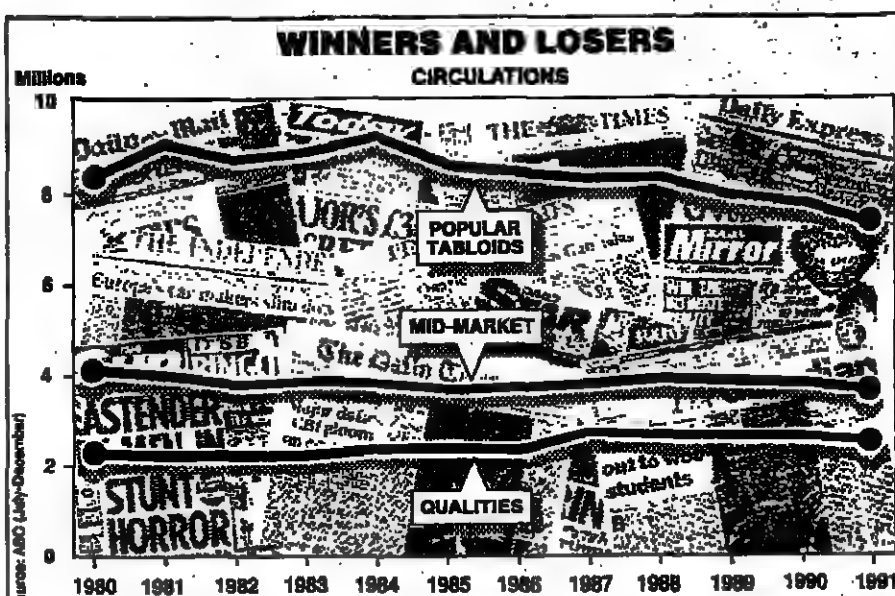
In the decade since 1981 (a year that saw the tabloids at their bingo zenith) sales have dropped 11 per cent from a peak of 15.3 million (see chart). The decline is by no means uniform. If the first half of the 1980s belonged to the tabloids, the second half saw the quality papers (in-

cluding *The Times*) flourish, increasing their total sales over the decade by 12 per cent and their share of all sales from 15 per cent to 19 per cent.

Apart from the recent decline in overall sales, what are the perceived problems? To a large extent they concern a new generation of readers. On an average day, the proportion of the adult population reading (as apart from buying) any national paper has dropped faster than total sales, especially among the young. At the start of the 1980s three-quarters of under-25s would be reading national newspapers on any one day; now it is barely 60 per cent. The decline is almost as bad among the 25-44 age group. Sales have remained static despite an increasing number of households, which suggests that some young households may have lost what is still a regular habit among their elders.

The second potential problem (see chart, right) is that as the population ages and moves slightly up the social scale, so too does the readership of national dailies. In most cases, readership is ageing faster than the national trend, a fact partly explained by the arrival of *The Independent* and *Today* with a rather younger appeal.

Attitudes to newspapers are a third area of concern. The British Market Research Bureau's target group index survey finds that only four out of ten adults now rely on newspapers to keep themselves "informed of what's going on", a score down 5 points in as many years. How does the optimist respond in the face of such



trends? Although cover prices have been kept down in real terms, the current dip in sales is probably recession-related: as personal incomes revive, so too will the broad circulation stability of national dailies, especially as an expected upswing in advertising revenue will ease future pressure to raise cover prices. Readers will not give up deeply ingrained habits because of media competition, especially if the press continues to adapt. Readers will not make a stark choice between one information medium and another.

The proportion claiming to

rely on television for news has not grown recently, and remains at about 45 per cent. Newspaper circulation boomed during last year's wars and coups, and will do so again during the election campaign.

Even though average readership has dropped, the National Readership Survey (the advertiser's bible) shows that only one in ten Britons never reads dailies, a figure that is not growing. Readers now probably concentrate on the merits of selected days rather than "average" days as each paper customises its daily package — Monday sports sections or weekend television listings pullouts. The re-launch of Saturday editions as "weekend" papers, turning below-average Saturday sales into above-average figures, is an example of newspapers combining marketing skills and production flexibility.

Interviews my agency has carried out with readers indicate that although recent innovations (such as more sections and colour) are not responses to urgent reader needs, such changes and a move from pure news to "review" editorial do reflect a competitive response to the new environment.

We can expect to see editors concentrating on the editorial needs of their readers, and a blurring of the segmentation among quality, mid-market and popular papers. Editors can develop strategies without having to worry about the competition from news magazines, sports titles and television listings magazines that might have hampered the development of big newspapers on the Continent.

Finally, and paradoxically, national papers may be better editorial products because they are now owned and run by businessmen rather than the old editorial magnates. Marketing imperatives should ensure that today's problems are addressed.

Peter Bowman is media research director of advertising agency WCRS

THE HERALD

Tory revolutionaries lean on Lang

Vanishing act for Glasgow

A Scottish daily has been busy name-dropping, reports Hugh Thompson

One of the oldest newspaper titles in Britain has been consigned to the dustbin. After 209 years, *The Glasgow Herald* has become simply *The Herald*.

The move is part of the drive by Liam Kane, the new managing director of Outram Press, to turn his flagship from being the first among Scotland's four quality titles into the country's first national newspaper.

Not least in the eyes of the advertiser, the move is a "must". "On our masthead 'Glasgow' has been getting smaller. We also want to tidy up the masthead as part of the general redesign. We outsell *The Scotsman*, our main rival, by 120,000 to 85,000, but there is still a feeling among some potential readers, and more importantly London ad agencies, that it is they, 'not us, who are the national quality north of the border. We outsell *The Scotsman* everywhere except for Edinburgh."

In order to ram home this message, an unprecedented £1.5 million will be spent over six months with a 60-second commercial on STV and Grampian, and sales teams have been sent to Edinburgh. *The Scotsman's* headland, Arnold Kemp, says: "In a design-conscious and competitive world you must continually find new ways of shouting at the public. Changing our name was all part of a more flexible and modern design of the paper."

"Of course, the readers don't like change and in Glasgow we have had one or

two complaints. But we cannot ignore the fact that most of our sales increase come from outside the city.

"I believe that all change in the newspaper should be considered and where possible done all at once. So new title, typeface, design and sections came together. We grasped the nettle. I have been quite encouraged by the response."

The Boarding reader in Aberdeen may well be impressed with the new-look *Herald*, but the strength of the Scottish quality papers derives not only from a regional bias in reporting but from the all-important classified sections, particularly in jobs and houses.

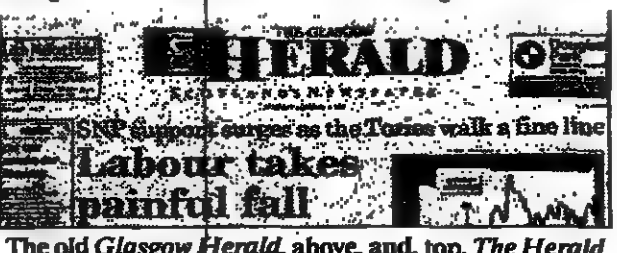
Mr Kane admits to revising his record: although the volume of advertisements was up an impressive 30 per cent in 1991, the value was up only 10 per cent, to £26.4 million. A key part of the strategy is to retain the large readership that buys *The Herald* on Fridays when it has 15 to 20 pages of jobs.

The Scottish media had a very good advertising year in 1991. As only 50 per cent of Scots are owner-occupiers and houses are cheaper too, Scotland has escaped the great mortgage-repossession dampener on spending.

As a result, national advertisers have switched more of their budgets north of the border. This has forced up the price of STV airtime, which in turn has made the Scottish daily papers more attractive.

So what do the London agencies think of the new *Herald*? Media planning director at BMP, Ivan Pollard, says: "I am surprised that we are meant to be a main target because no one has come to tell us about this. But we know all about *The Herald*: it's already our number one paper in Scotland."

"Newspaper names and designs are all about brands. At first readers reject change but if they are genuine improvements they become part of the brand strength."



The old Glasgow Herald, above, and, top, *The Herald*

Revival of the fittest

Strong sales depend on a strong product, whatever the demographic, economic or social trends, and no matter how great the competition from other media, editors and circulation managers of regional newspapers were told at a Newspaper Society sales conference this week.

For years, regional and local papers have blamed their declining fortunes — a 23 per cent drop in sales since 1975 — on competition from freebies and local broadcast media, population movement from urban to suburban areas and, most recently, the recession.

But tracking the performance of 30 titles over the past 15 years to prove his point, David Darton, development director at the Henley Centre for Forecasting, told 380 delegates at Birmingham that the main reason for success or failure can be found within the pages of newspapers themselves.

"Our research shows that it is possible to buck negative trends. A newspaper is like any other prod-

uct. Value for money is extremely important and that requires substantial, long-term investment," he said.

Successful local papers tend to print six to eight editions, "editionising" most pages, while under-performers print just one to five and change only the front page from edition to edition. Successful papers are thicker, use more colour, have a more modern design, run more stories, print more supplements, and publish national and international news, listings, lifestyle and more issue-oriented stories.

Advertising, promotion and canvassing have negligible impact on long-term sales, Mr Darton said. Many under-performers advertise a lot, while many of the industry's success stories tend to promote themselves sparingly, advertising

Local papers can halt the sales slide, reports Melinda Wittstock

only specific scoops and specials. Weaker papers tend also to boast that they are "campaigning" papers while the more successful possess a quiet confidence that they are responding on a daily basis to issues of importance within the community, he said.

Whatever their current circumstances, the regional press must find ways to woo back younger readers if the overall circulation slide is to be averted. John Aldridge, the Newspaper Society's

president, said young people overwhelmingly regard the regional press as "grey and boring and middle-aged".

To cater for the 13 to 33-year-olds regional papers must update their design, let the young write for the young, carry more campaigning journalism and leisure features, and sectionalise the newspaper to ensure older readers are not alienated, said George Kelly, a former teacher who now runs the society's Newspaper in Education (NIE) scheme.

NIE had a dramatic impact on the fortunes of *The Sunderland Echo*. After working with young people for several years it succeeded in winning 70 per cent of local 15- to 24-year-olds as new readers. "This is now their largest readership by a clear 4 per cent," Mr Aldridge said.

"If you haven't got an NIE coordinator in your office, working it out with close contact with his or her editor, then your newspaper is not taking long-term sales seriously."

He also called on the regional press to make a greater effort to combat illiteracy, which affects 5.5 million British adults. Local papers could provide a room for a few hours each week where adults could learn to read. "We simply have to fight everything that prevents people reading," he said.

"In the end it's the product that matters. We won't sell it unless its contents are local and unique, unless their presentation is familiar and changes are evolutionary and not revolutionary. The local newspaper has to be seen to be involved in community matters and to be a voice for its community. It means real community news, it means expensive journalists on site... just to stand still it means we have to have colour... there is so much to be done."

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We invite applications from candidates, aged 25-35, with at least 3 years' successful secretarial recruitment experience. Reporting to the Chief Executive, the successful candidate will be responsible for establishing a new secretarial branch office in the West End. Good contacts in the industry, both with clients and candidates is important in order to carve out a significant share of this competitive market. The operation will be focused on the placement of both permanent and temporary secretaries at all levels. An initial attractive salary, plus car, free life assurance, contributory pension and free medical cover. Applications in strict confidence, under reference SR4833/TT to the Managing Director: CJA.

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Sales Assistants, PA's, Secretaries and Temps are urgently required to work in a highly successful, pressured and exciting Investment Bank.

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Influential Art Gallery is looking for a Secretary with intelligence, charm and social awareness.

You should have an interest in Art, enjoy organising your frantic boss, be able to prioritise and have an excellent telephone manner.

Skills: 100/50 Age: 20-28 German useful

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This is a new position providing secretarial and administrative support to the Insurance Manager and the Assistant Company Secretary of a well-known public company in WC2. Good communication skills for frequent liaison with brokers, shareholders and the Group's overseas offices are important, as are a good memory and methodical approach to assume responsibility for following up queries and projects etc on your bosses' behalf.

Age: 25-35, and A/Levants preferred. Typing: 55wpm. Knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 and other European languages would be useful.

RECRUITMENT
COMPANY

071-831 2220 5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AR

Administrator/Secretary

Chiswick c£13,500 - £15,000

We are a small specialist consultancy which advises top UK businesses on personnel issues.

We are looking for a resourceful person to provide full and varied administrative and secretarial support to our consultants. Candidates should be of 'A' level standard and have good audio and WP skills, at least 2 years' office experience and excellent administrative skills.

Please send cv to Caroline Lyon, PERSONA, 22 Chiswick High Road, London W4 1TE.

PERSONA

PA/SECRETARY TO GENERAL
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The London Chamber of Commerce plays an important role in stimulating commerce in London and the South-East, through the provision of business services and representation.

We are now looking for an enterprising, enthusiastic and personable secretary, who is capable of operating at senior management level and providing an efficient and effective service on an interesting variety of responsibilities (including minuting of Board meetings).

This is a new challenging role, requiring excellent secretarial (shorthand, audio and wp), admin and communication skills. Experience in a finance environment would be advantageous.

If you enjoy pressure and the opportunity to use your initiative, please send a full CV to:

Deborah Jarvis, London Chamber of Commerce,
69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 3AB

Salary c£14,000

LONDON CHAMBER
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

POINTS OF VIEW

At Cross Selection we only have one point of view. That the best jobs should be filled by the best people. That is why we are retained by so many blue chip companies. That is why so many top secretaries come to us when they are looking for exciting new opportunities. Whether you are hiring or hunting, you really should talk to us.

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Two hardworking, young Directors are seeking an enthusiastic, resilient secretary to work alongside them. Duties will include diary management, client liaison plus a high shorthand/typing content. To fit into the M&A area of Banking you need to be: an achiever, well-spoken, very well-presented, prepared to work long hours (overtime is paid) and someone who enjoys a secretarial role. City location and a salary package of £18-20k. Call us now on 071 283 0799.

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Sought by City based international executive search firm. This is a unique opportunity for someone with 'meticulous appearance, professional attitude and excellent phone manner to work as part of a young and busy team. Flexible attitude and a sense of humour are essential.

We offer a luxury environment, competitive salary, BUPA + bonus. Phone Amanda Smith on 071 374 8422 for more details.

VERNON STRATTON ADVERTISING

Chelsea based advertising agency require Secretary. Fast accurate typist using Apple Mac with Microsoft Word. Some audio. Must be self-motivated and organised.

Please write enclosing cv to:

Suzanna Hammond
21 Ives Street
SW3 2ND.

RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

Required by publisher.

Fast, accurate typing, smart appearance and the ability to work under pressure are essential. Salary £11,500-12,000 aac, plus bonus scheme and five weeks holiday.

Reply in writing by 19th February, to:

Suzanne Whewell
Headline Book Publishing PLC
79 Great Titchfield Street
London W1P 7FN.
071-631 1687

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for office services contractor

they company require an adaptable

secretary/administrator to support

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Company/HQ experience an

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pleasant telephone manner

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Telephone Peter Mitchell

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Senior Secretary
£16,000 + Bkg Bens

Excellent opportunity for a Secretary with financial experience to work at the forefront of a major investment bank. Assisting a senior director involved in deciding the bank's exposure in all leading activities, the atmosphere is dynamic and the job demanding. Liaising with major City players, you'll organise a busy diary and provide a sterling secretarial service where nothing less than perfection will do! Impeccable secretarial skills (100/60) and a willingness to work long hours are crucial to this special role. Age: 22-38. Please call Esther Mandam on 071-377 9919.

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As Chairman of a large company, our client leads a very hectic business and social life. He needs a private secretary to handle the myriad of personal matters relating to his houses in London, the country and abroad. You will deal with family matters, liaise with household staff and maintain offices for him in London and the country. You must be a car owner. Skills 100/60. Age about 30.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES
071 629 9323

LEGAL IN BANKING
c£19,000 + More Subs

This well known US Investment Bank seeks a professional and self-motivated senior secretary with at least five years legal or banking experience. You'll assist an executive director within the legal department and ensure the smooth running of his office. Excellent benefits offered. 90/60 skills needed, French or German useful. Age 25-35.

For more information please telephone 071-268 3744

Elizabeth Hunt
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HOTELS and RESORTS
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Fast expanding Far Eastern Hotel Group based in Chiswick require a dedicated person to work for the Director of Marketing Europe. Position requires an outgoing personality who enjoys customer contact + has sound administrative/secretarial skills as some numerical work is entailed. Hotel/Travel background would be an asset. Salary c£17,500.

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18-21 Jeremy Street London SW1Y 6EP Telephone 071-734 7341

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We have an exciting opportunity for a young secretary to work in a multi-trading business. Excellent telephone manner, proactive attitude, organisational skills, confidence and good typing are essential. Prev age: 19 - 22.

We have lots of interesting vacancies for young secretaries on our books at present - so if you are looking for a job with a difference, are aged 18 - 25, please call.

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TEL: 071 499 6566

AUDIO SECRETARY
URGENTLY REQUIRED

Small friendly firm of surveyors in W1 requires audio secretary for head of busy Professional Department. Fast accurate typing - Multitask! Ad it experience essential. Excellent telephone manner and methodical approach to work. Ability to work under pressure and to deadline. Salary according to age and experience. Please apply in writing with CV to:

Mrs S Baker
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(NO AGENCIES)

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Seeks operator sec. Must be aged 25 - 35 with 80 wpm S/H & 70 wpm typing. Salary £15,000 for polished applicants. Please call Selective Recruitment on 071 638 1776.

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SECRETARY/PA FOR
CHAIRMAN

of small Investment Management Company situated in Mayfair.

The successful applicant is likely to have significant experience and be between ages of 28 and 45. The ability to take decisions and responsibility, and be used to dealing with both personal and business aspects of the Chairman's work is essential.

Typing/Shorthand speeds of 60/120 would be required together with knowledge of DW4 wordprocessing. Good telephone manner is essential. Starting salary in region of £17,000.

Please telephone

Linda Arrowsmith on 071 629 2714.

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Requires a full time
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To work from busy offices in Mayfair. Common sense & initiative with an ability to manage own work schedule a must, as are Audio skills and occasional shorthand. Five Weeks paid holiday.

£15,000 pa

Typed applications with full CV to:

John Kennedy, 9 Cork Street,
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Closing date 24th February 1992

PA/SECRETARY

required to organise and support busy Director of leading children's book publishing company based in Knightsbridge. Position includes appointment scheduling, working to deadlines, typing and general office duties in a friendly and energetic environment. Able to use own initiative, you need to have at least 3 years' experience at senior level, shorthand and typing 50wpm+. Audio useful, DW4 used, and first class organisational skills and telephone manner a must. Excellent benefits package includes LVs, 25 days holiday, discounted books and all. CV to Personnel Manager, Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 6BA.

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Leading agency needs PA/Personnel support for their Personnel Director along with qualities of style, telephone manner and methodical approach to work. Some experience of secretarial recruitment and welfare essential.

Call Kate Dean on 071 408 3244

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Age 25-35

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Fax: 071-288 4717

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CHARTERED SURVEYORS
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Audio & WP skills (Wordperfect 5.1)

Good salary + bonus + benefits

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Mrs C J Griffin

Personnel Manager, Herring Baker

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London W1X 2QL

Tel No: 071 734 8155

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Please telephone Belinda Langridge on 071-377 9827 for an immediate interview.

Crone Corkill

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SECRETARY/PA

to property director/company secretary.

Property Director/Company Secretary is currently seeking an experienced and professional shorthand secretary (PA, Age 25+ with at least 2 years experience in a Company secretary's office at a senior level, your responsibilities would include all matters dealing with company administration and pension scheme, company vehicles, legal issues, collation of board papers and all property and estate liaison. This responsible position requires excellent secretarial and inter personal skills, attention to detail, efficient telephone manner and strict confidentiality at all times. In return we offer a competitive salary, 22 days holiday, pension scheme, PPP and staff discount.

If you are interested please send cv and current salary details to Debbie Carpenter (Director of Personnel) Moss Bros Group PLC, 8 St Johns Hill, Clapham Junction, London SW11 1SA.

SECOND-JOBBER/COLLEGE-LEAVERS

We are currently filling appointments in Consultancy. Marketing and other exciting professions. You will need shorthand and word-processing skills. Age 18+ Salary £12,000 + benefits.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

071 629 9323

Chance to Charm

£15,000
Pimlico

Brilliant opportunity to enjoy a really varied role as secretary in the corporate communications department of this international company. Working in a small team, your impeccable phone manner and social poise will be invaluable as you constantly liaise with shareholders and the general public. Flexibility is equally important as you juggle a varied list of responsibilities including sifting press cuttings, sending out invitations and helping to organise functions. 50 wpm typing essential. 'A' levels preferred. Age 25-27. Please call Lyne Dawson on 071 497 6032.

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City Heat

£16,000 + paid o/t

Can you stay cool when the heat is on? The Venture Capital department of a blue-chip City firm invests in the companies of tomorrow and two senior managers need a forward thinking secretary to stay one jump ahead. The pace is fast as you plan travel, monitor expenses, run the diary, field calls and type reports and correspondence. Good secretarial skills (90/60), ideally 'A' levels, and the desire to work overtime (8.30-6.00) will even the temperature. Age: mid 20's. Please telephone Melanie Hill on 071 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
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PERSONAL SECRETARY

Excellent organisational and secretarial skills (100/80) to work for a Partner in busy Quantity Surveying practice. Typing (Wordperfect 5.1), shorthand, dictaphone, telephone liaison and movement. Minute taking experience an advantage. Salary according to age and experience.

Reply with CV to:

Mr Martin Bishop Franklin & Andrews, Holton House, 161-166 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AQ

No agencies

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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax** (94767) 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** (3298359)
9.05 **Kiboy**, Robert Kirby-Silk, shares a studio discussion on a topical subject (4218678) 9.50 **Hot Chefs**. Lamb shank and potato cabbage with olive oil mashed potato (5218454)
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (6073367) 10.05 **Playdays** (r) (1733589) 10.25 **Plugs** (r) (8076454) 10.35 **No Kidding**. Family quiz game show (s) (5567218)
11.05 **Olympics '92**. Helen Rollason introduces live coverage of the women's combined downhill from Meribel. The commentator is Julian Turt (3038218)
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather 12.05 **Pabbie Mill** (s) (5648725) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (10122102)
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather (54812) 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Cee-fax) (s) (6244473)
1.50 **Olympics '92**. Coverage of ice hockey, the men's 10km biallison, the individual Nordic combined and the women's luge. Plus highlights of last night's pairs free figure skating (31004725)
3.50 **Benarman**. Animation (r) (8994183) 3.55 **Caterpillar Trail**. Stuart Bradley goes in search of a good potato and marine biologist Martin Holmes meets a hitchhiking pilot (r) (5005078) 4.10 **Fiddley Foodie**. Bird. Animation narrated by Denise Waterman (s) (9011925) 4.20 **Jackanory**. Helena Bonham-Carter with episode three of Philippa Pearce's *The Way to Saffron Shore* (r) (5429589) 4.35 **Bucky O'Hare**. Animation (2480386)
5.00 **Newsround** (3003812) 5.05 **Archer's Goats**. The last episode of the children's comedy thriller. (Cee-fax) (s) (5518876)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (425676). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Cee-fax) Weather (299)
6.30 **Regional News** Magazines (251). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **Wogan**. A look behind the scenes of the Brit Awards at the Hammerstein Coliseum in London, coverage of which follows this programme (4189)
7.30 **The Brits 1992**. The British Record Industry Awards from the Hammerstein Coliseum. The musical guests include Simply Red, Seal, Lisa Stansfield, PM Dawn, Beverley Craven, Extreme and KLF (s) (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1) (11522)
9.00 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Liberal Democrats (407819)
9.10 **News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (589890)



Flying ahead of the competition: winner Sharon Chen (9.40pm)

9.40 **G.E.D.** The Battle of the Bottle Swimmers. CHOICE: The series dedicated to showing that science is fun returns with a competition between young engineers to design the most effective rubbish-collecting machine. Armed with only a box of bits and their own ingenuity, the students must come up with a contraption that will sweep up as many bottles, cans and cartons as the strictest possible time. The contest starts in Britain, Germany and the United States and climaxes in Japan. Anyone hoping to cheer on our lads and lassies against the rest of the world will be disappointed. For the Tokyo grand final the teams are made up from all the nationalities. The attempts of various forklifts, mechanical crabs and sweeping arms to capture their prey make for consistent entertainment. Whether the exercise proves anything, as the series title implies, is another matter. (Cee-fax) (525928)

10.10 **Sportscast** introduced by Desmond Lynam. Boxing: live coverage of the WBO world welterweight championship bout between Pat Barrett of Manchester and the holder, Manning Galloway of America. The commentator at the Wembley Grand Hall is (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1) (11522) 10.30 **News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (589890) 10.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (425676). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster

12.00 **News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (589890) 12.05 **Pabbie Mill** (s) (5648725) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (10122102)

BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University: Technology** - Eureka (846676). Ends at 7.10
8.00 **Breakfast News** (250657) 8.15 **Westminster** (520541)
9.00 **Daytime on 2**. Educational programmes
2.00 **News** and weather (1055527) followed by *You and Me* (r) (7410356) 2.15 **Billen by the Bug**. Professor Erik Holt continues his exploration of the insect world with a look at how certain species look after their offspring (7410522) 2.30 **Reviving Antiques**. How to clean an antique piece made of more than one material (257541) 2.35 **Countryside**. Film reports on the shrinking of Britain (408012)
3.00 **News** and weather (594725) followed by *Westminster Live*, introduced by Vivian White (873562) 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather (772544)



Presenting the daily game for wordsmiths: Paul Cola (8.00pm)

- 4.00 **Catchword**. Another round of the game for wordsmiths, presented by Paul Cola (s) (184)
4.30 **Wildlife Gems**. Film of high-rise cat, seabirds in the desert and flowers blooming in wasteland (r) (576)
5.00 **Made By Hand**. The skills of a paper maker (r) (7727094) 5.10 **Horizon**. T Rex Exposed (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (355523)
6.00 **Olympics** Today. Highlights of the 1992. For more details call 0900 123456 (calls charged at 48p per minute plus 35p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 6AA. (VideoPlus (P), Pasco (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gannett Publishing Ltd.)

6.10 **Timewatch**. The Man Who Made the Supergun. CHOICE: Current affairs, it is said, soon harden into history. When this film was first a year ago the story of the Iraq supergun was a subject from the headlines. Now it fits happily into the normal Timewatch brief which has more to do with the past than the present. Peter Taylor tells the story of Dr Gerald Bull, scientist, businessman and inventor. When Bull was assassinated in Brussels in March 1990 the incident was barely reported. A few weeks later, as details of the supergun emerged in Britain, Germany and Turkey he was front page news. A Canadian, Bull became obsessed with the long-range German guns of the two world wars and was determined to build a supergun based on Nazi military technology. Taylor follows the story all the way to Saddam Hussein. The film has been updated to coincide with the inquiry into the affair by the House of Commons trade and industry committee (r) (300331)

9.00 **Film: Prime Suspect** (1992) starring Mike Farrell (BJ in MPA-S*) and Teri Garr. A made-for-television drama about a respectable, easy-going businessman, whose life becomes a living nightmare after a catastrophic accident leads to his conviction for a crime he didn't commit. Directed by Noel Black (846435)

10.30 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Liberal Democrats (505541)

10.40 **Newsnight** presented by Peter Snow (213473)
11.15 **The Late Show**. A look at cultural values with guests Harit Kurshian, A.S. (r) (57435) Alan Yarbok and Melvyn Bragg (4) (479102)
12.05 **News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (589890) 12.10 **News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (589890)

12.10 **News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (589890) 12.15 **The Late Show**. A look at cultural values with guests Harit Kurshian, A.S. (r) (57435) Alan Yarbok and Melvyn Bragg (4) (479102)

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ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am** (551457)
9.25 **Keynotes**. Music quiz game hosted by Alistair Davill (1338299) 9.55 **Thames News** (4377086)
10.00 **The Time... The Place...** Topical discussion series (5013855)
10.40 **This Morning**. Magazine series on family matters presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Includes Colin Dexter, creator of the Inspector Morse character, talks about how he feels about his work being adapted for television. Denise Robertson counselling on emotional matters and advice from the spinning club, *Fal Busters*. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (3030183)
12.10 **Allsorts**. Young people's entertainment (r) (276725)
12.30 **News** with John Suchet. (Cee-fax) Weather: (5841183) 1.10 **Thames News** (5379138)
1.20 **Home and Away**. Australian family drama series. (Cee-fax) (5760715) 1.50 **A Country Practice**. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (s) (5211803)
2.20 **Graham Kerr**. The former *Gourmet* presenter prepares a butter-free salad and saffron sauce (3511247) 2.50 **The High Road**. Drama series set in the Highlands (408831)
3.15 **ITN News** headlines (554102) 3.20 **Thames News** headlines (581015) 3.25 **The Young Doctors**. Australian medical drama (5357454)
3.55 **The Dreamstone**. Cartoon fantasy series (5259825) 4.20 **Finders Keepers**. Destructive game show (5808015) 4.50 **Carl TV**. Wildlife and environmental series. Includes a visit to Belfast Zoo and a dive on Kenya's coral reef (4480725)
5.10 **Blockbusters**. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes (5520215)
5.40 **News** with Carol Barnes. (Cee-fax) Weather: (563909)
5.55 **Thames Help**. The demands and rewards of being a school teacher (53586)
6.00 **Home and Away** (r). (Cee-fax) (367)
6.30 **Thames News**. (Cee-fax) (347)
7.00 **This Is Your Life**. Michael Aspel lies in wait to give another unsuspecting worthy an emotional mugging (9251)



Secret Valentine: Nicholas Cochrane with Judy Brooke (7.30pm)

7.30 **Coronation Street**. Andy McDonald manages to deposit a Valentine's card into new pupil Paula's bag. Starring Nicholas Cochrane and Judy Brooke. (Cee-fax) (531)
8.00 **Van der Valk**. The second of three feature length stories based on the character created by Nicholas Freeling, starring Barry Foster as the unorthodox, Dutch detective. In this case investigating the kidnapping of a businessman and his young son (4201)
10.00 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Liberal Democrats (505541)
10.10 **News** with Trevor McDonald and Alistair Stewart. (Cee-fax) Weather: (5826116) 10.40 **Thames News** (572725)
10.50 **Film: The Best of Beauty** (1974). A compilation of comedy sketches from episodes of *The Barry Hill Show*. Directed by John Robins (4970737)

12.25 **Film: A Time to Triumph** (1986) starring Patsy Duke and Joseph Bologna. A love story of a wife who, after her husband has a heart attack, becomes the family breadwinner. Her choice of career is as a US Army helicopter pilot. Directed by Noel Black (846435)

2.15 **America's Top Ten** presented by Tommy Puett and Casey Kasam (s) (2771)
2.45 **VideoPlus**. The role of nostalgia in the world of fashion (810705)

3.10 **Quix**. Night, Pub and club competition hosted by Ted Robbins (1650435)

3.40 **Stephen King's This is Horror**. A selection of clips from films featuring female vampires (r) (5315225)

4.10 **Along the Coast**. A film about a woman who travels from North Nibley to Dorset (r) (4970690)

4.40 **Fifty Years On** (b/w). Archive newscast (1614323)
5.10 **Witness to Survival**. Two more stories of survival against the odds (54416)

5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Tim Nelson (50555). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Channel Four Daily** (5512299) 6.25 **Schools** (94719541)
12.00 **The Parliament**. Programme presented by Nicholas Owen (55744)
12.30 **Business Daily**. With Susanah Simons (16538)
1.00 **Seasame Street**. Early learning series. The guest is New York's mayor David Dinkins (50164)
2.00 **Film: Dragonwyche** (1948, b/w) starring Vincent Price, Gene Tierney and Walter Huston. Gothic melodrama about a 19th-century landowner who marries a young bride before she has the chance to see his true nature. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (255812)
3.55 **Guests Stay in Bed**. Animation from Hungary (886164)
4.00 **The Survival Factor: Deep South Sea**. A documentary narrated by Toyah Wilcox about the Weddell seal, an Antarctic species that can dive deeper than any other seal (r). (Teletext) (580)
4.30 **Countdown** presented by Richard Whitley (s) (744)
5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. Betty Miller talks about her marriage, her cooking, her crusade for AIDS victims and her latest film, *For the Boys* (7816454) 5.55 **Latent and Hardy**. Animation (586539)
6.00 **Kate & Alice**. American comedy series starring Jane Curtin and Susan Saint James (909)
6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**. Tonight model and actress Imran is the guest (s) (589)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (20418)
7.50 **Party Political Broadcast** on a Conservative party politician (230541)
8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (5541) 8.30 **Travelogue**. Robert Elms explores Denmark (s) (5576)
8.00 **Dispatches**. CHOICE: The nub of a provocative edition of *Dispatches* is that AZT, the main drug prescribed for the treatment of AIDS, is not working. No one says that AZT is a cure for AIDS or will prevent people dying from it. But scientific experts, mostly in the United States, debate the claim of Wellcome, manufacturers of AZT, that the drug 'improves both quality and length of life'. This is apparently refuted by a four-year trial in North Carolina. Critics assert that the tests on which AZT gained acceptance were seriously flawed. AIDS sufferers speak of feeling better without the drug than with it. Among the sceptics is Dr Peter Duesberg of the University of California, who has spearheaded the AZT. *Dispatches* to suggest that HIV is not the cause of AIDS. Wellcome declined to appear in the programme, fearing that it would not be balanced. Ironically, it would be much more balanced if they had (504522)



Hidden loot: Freddie Boardley and Iain McCall (9.45pm)

9.45 **She-Play: Full Board**. A bed and board comedy farce written by 19-year-old Jane Duncan and starring Susan Woodridge, Freddie Boardley and Iain McCall (s) (841454)
10.00 **The Golden Girls**. Delia's comedy about four romantic Miami matrons. (Teletext) (s) (58473)
10.30 **The Secret Cabaret** with Simon Drake. The guests are Ricky Jay, Max Mervin and Joanne Juliette (s) (52833)
11.00 **The Reconstructed Heart**. CHOICE: The actor and cabaret artist Robert Llewellyn presents a witty discussion on the nature of the heart. He has been married 20 years. He compares normal man, the unreconstructed male chauvinist pig, with reconstructed man, who believes in much the same way but occasionally feels guilty about it. Llewellyn's chosen vehicle for his thesis is a spoof academic lecture, complete with graphs, charts, filmed interviews and sociological mumbo-jumbo. The sense of parody is very sharp. It will be difficult after sitting through this one to take a real lecture seriously. But content is not entirely swamped by form and Llewellyn's observations on changing male attitudes are often sharp. The studio audience clearly enjoyed themselves and so should readers of the more intelligent newspapers who do not mind a bit of rudery (s) (533725)

11.45 **The 291 Club**. More shrewdly observed, a critical audience at London's Hackney Empire (r) (s) (542955)
12.45 **Am Night** with Jonathan Ross (r) (s) (542955)
1.10 **Dick Spring**. Cartoon private eye created by Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds team (1232459). Ends at 1.20

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SATELLITE

- SKY ONE**
Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
6.00 **News** (1601387) 9.30 **Nightline** (58377) 10.30 **News** (1601387) 11.00 **Dayline** (58377) 11.30 **News** (58377) 12.00 **News** (58377) 12.30 **News** (58377) 1.00 **News** (58377) 1.30 **Good Morning America** (58377) 2.30 **Perfection Live** (58377) 3.15 **Perfection Live** (58377) 4.30 **Fashion TV** (1744) 6.00 **Live at Five** (58377) 8.30 **News** (58377) 9.30 **News** (58377) 10.30 **News** (58377) 11.00 **News** (58377) 11.30 **News** (58377) 12.00 **News** (58377) 12.30 **News** (58377) 1.00 **News** (58377) 1.30 **News** (58377) 2.00 **News** (58377) 2.30 **News** (58377) 3.00 **News** (58377) 3.30 **News** (58377) 4.00 **News** (58377) 4.30 **News** (58377) 5.00 **News** (58377) 5.30 **News** (58377) 6.00 **News** (58377) 6.30 **News** (58377) 7.00 **News** (58377) 7.30 **News** (58377) 8.00 **News** (58377) 8.30 **News** (58377) 9.00 **News** (58377) 9.30 **News** (58377) 10.00 **News** (58377) 10.30 **News** (58377) 11.00 **News** (58377) 11.30 **News** (58377) 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